Overton Brooks

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
LOUISIANA

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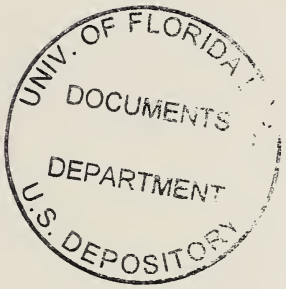

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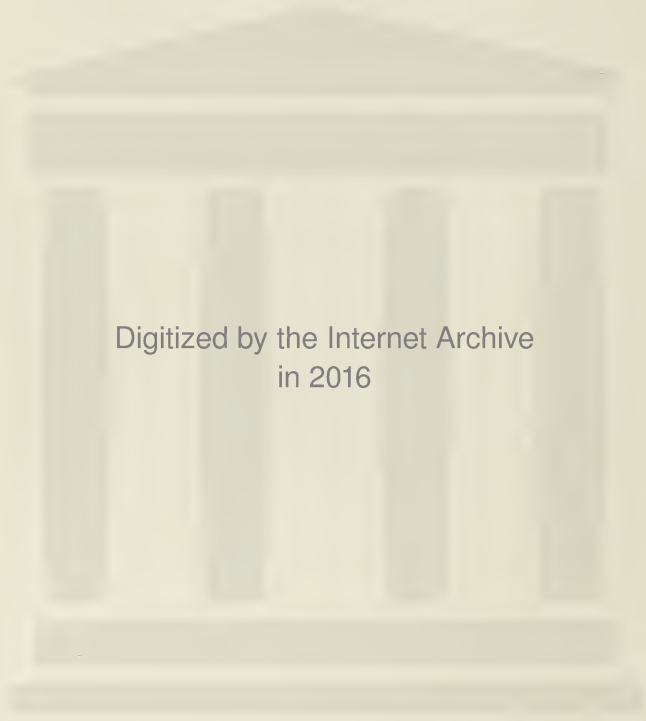
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Memorial Services

HELD IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND
SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES, TOGETHER
WITH REMARKS PRESENTED IN EULOGY OF

Overton Brooks

LATE A REPRESENTATIVE FROM
LOUISIANA

Eighty-seventh Congress
First Session

UNITED STATES
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Contents

	Page
Biography	5
Proceedings in the House:	
Appointment of committee to attend funeral	9
Remarks by—	
Hon. Otto E. Passman, of Louisiana	11
Hon. Edwin E. Willis, of Louisiana	13
Hon. George P. Miller, of California	14
Hon. James G. Fulton, of Pennsylvania	15
Hon. Robert L. F. Sikes, of Florida	17
Hon. Carl Albert, of Oklahoma	18
Hon. Oren Harris, of Arkansas	19
Hon. William J. Randall, of Missouri	20
Hon. David S. King, of Utah	22
Hon. Robert W. Hemphill, of South Carolina	24
Hon. Joseph W. Martin, Jr., of Massachusetts	25
Hon. Harold B. McSween, of Louisiana	27
Hon. J. Edgar Chenoweth, of Colorado	28
Hon. Charles S. Gubser, of California	30
Hon. Jack Brooks, of Texas	32
Hon. Ken Hechler, of West Virginia	33
Hon. J. Edward Roush, of Indiana	34
Hon. William Fitts Ryan, of New York	35
Hon. Clyde Doyle, of California	36
Hon. Philip J. Philbin, of Massachusetts	38
Hon. Ed Edmondson, of Oklahoma	39
Hon. W. R. Poage, of Texas	40
Hon. Emilio Q. Daddario, of Connecticut	42
Hon. John W. Davis, of Georgia	44
Hon. James C. Corman, of California	45
Hon. E. L. Forrester, of Georgia	46
Hon. George H. Mahon, of Texas	47
Hon. John W. McCormack, of Massachusetts	48
Hon. James C. Davis, of Georgia	50
Hon. Joe L. Evins, of Tennessee	52
Hon. Ben F. Jensen, of Iowa	53
Hon. Frank E. Smith, of Mississippi	54
Hon. Paul J. Kilday, of Texas	55
Hon. James E. Van Zandt, of Pennsylvania	56
Hon. Richard L. Roudebush, of Indiana	57
Hon. Alphonzo Bell, of California	58
Hon. Roland V. Libonati, of Illinois	59
Hon. Thomas G. Morris, of New Mexico	60
Hon. Charles A. Halleck, of Indiana	61

CONTENTS

Proceedings in the House—Continued

Remarks by—Continued — Page

Hon. Jessica McC. Weis, of New York — 63
Hon. Walt Horan, of Washington — 64
Hon. W. J. Bryan Dorn, of South Carolina — 65
Hon. R. Walter Riehlman, of New York — 66
Hon. Basil L. Whitener, of North Carolina — 67
Hon. John J. Flynt, Jr., of Georgia — 68
Hon. Charles E. Bennett, of Florida — 69
Hon. Clark W. Thompson, of Texas — 70
Hon. John J. Rooney, of New York — 71
Hon. Barratt O'Hara, of Illinois — 72
Hon. Wilbur D. Mills, of Arkansas — 73
Hon. Bob Casey, of Texas — 75
Hon. William K. Van Pelt, of Wisconsin — 76
Hon. B. F. Sisk, of California — 77
Hon. William S. Moorhead, of Pennsylvania — 78
Hon. Catherine D. Norrell, of Arkansas — 79
Hon. F. Edward Hébert, of Louisiana — 81
Hon. Carl Elliott, of Alabama — 82
Hon. Wright Patman, of Texas — 83
Hon. Lindley Beckworth, of Texas — 84
Hon. Leon H. Gavin, of Pennsylvania — 86
Hon. T. Ashton Thompson, of Louisiana — 87
Hon. James H. Morrison, of Louisiana — 89
Hon. Peter F. Mack, of Illinois — 91
Hon. Walter H. Moeller, of Ohio — 92
Hon. O. C. Fisher, of Texas — 93
Hon. Arthur Winstead, of Mississippi — 94
Hon. Charles A. Mosher, of Ohio — 95
Hon. Carl Vinson, of Georgia — 97
Hon. L. Mendel Rivers, of South Carolina — 98
Hon. Dale Alford, of Arkansas — 99
Hon. Olin E. Teague, of Texas — 100
Hon. Carroll D. Kearns, of Pennsylvania — 101
Hon. Leslie C. Arens, of Illinois — 102

Proceedings in the Senate:

Appointment of committee to attend funeral — 108

Remarks by—

Hon. Allen J. Ellender, of Louisiana — 109
Editorial from Shreveport (La.) Times of September 18, 1961 — 110
Hon. Russell B. Long, of Louisiana — 113
Hon. Lister Hill, of Alabama — 114
Hon. John J. Sparkman, of Alabama — 115
Hon. Kenneth B. Keating, of New York — 116
Hon. Lee Metcalf, of Montana — 117

Biography

OVERTON BROOKS (nephew of John Holmes Overton), was born near Baton Rouge, East Baton Rouge Parish, La., December 21, 1897; attended the public schools; during the First World War served overseas as an enlisted man in the Sixth Field Artillery, First Division, Regular Army, in 1918 and 1919; was graduated from the law department of Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge in 1923; was admitted to the bar the same year and commenced practice in Shreveport, La.; served as United States Commissioner 1925–1935; elected as a Democrat to the 75th and to the 12 succeeding Congresses and served from January 3, 1937, until his death in the naval hospital at Bethesda, Md., September 16, 1961; interment in Forest Hills Cemetery, Shreveport, La.

Proceedings
in the
House of Representatives

Proceedings in the House

SATURDAY, *September 16, 1961.*

Mr. PASSMAN. Peace be with you, OVERTON.

Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution—House Resolution 467—and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS, a Representative from the State of Louisiana.

Resolved, That a committee of 11 Members of the House, with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions, and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

The resolution was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair appoints as members of the funeral committee the following members on the part of the House: Mr. Hébert, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Boggs, Mr. Passman, Mr. Willis, Mr. Thompson of Louisiana, Mr. McSween, Mr. George P. Miller of California, Mr. Chenoweth, and Mr. Van Pelt.

The Clerk will report the remainder of the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect, the House do now adjourn.

The resolution was agreed to.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House, under its previous order, adjourned until Monday, September 18, 1961, at 11 a.m.

MEMORIAL ADDRESSES

MONDAY, *September 18, 1961.*

A message from the Senate by Mr. McGown, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed the following resolution:

S. RES. 213

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. OVERTON BROOKS, late a Representative from the State of Louisiana.

Resolved, That a committee of two Senators be appointed by the Presiding Officer to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of the deceased Representative.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Senate, at the conclusion of its business today, stand in recess until 12 o'clock noon on Monday next.

Remarks by Representative Passman

Of Louisiana

Mr. PASSMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound shock and heartfelt sadness that I announce to the House the death this morning at Bethesda Naval Hospital of our esteemed colleague, the highly respected and genuinely admired dean of the Louisiana delegation in Congress, and my dear personal friend, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS.

Suffering from pneumonia, our devoted friend and distinguished colleague was readmitted to the hospital on Monday of this week. Two weeks before he had undergone a surgical operation, but had left the hospital on Labor Day for a week's rest at his Washington home. Tireless, conscientious, and faithful worker that he was, he returned to his office briefly last Saturday and had planned to be back at work full time on Monday. Instead, however, pneumonia developed, and he was returned to the hospital, where he passed on today to the other side of eternity.

The quality of the dedicated life and the invaluable work of OVERTON BROOKS is well known to every Member of this body in which he was serving with great distinction his country, his State, and his constituency of the 4th Congressional District of Louisiana, for the 25th consecutive year. He was first elected to the 75th Congress, and was reelected to the 12 succeeding Congresses.

A native Louisianian, OVERTON BROOKS was a resident of the city of Shreveport, in Caddo Parish. He was a graduate of Louisiana State University, having received with honors the LL.B. degree from the law school in 1923, after having served honorably and well overseas in the U.S. Army during World War I. He was a former U.S. Commissioner and a highly successful practicing attorney until his election to the Congress, to which he devoted a quarter century of faithful and outstanding service.

OVERTON BROOKS was a member of the Masonic fraternity, a member of the Episcopal Church, and was active in various veterans' and civic organizations and other affairs in his home community and State. He was president for 5 years of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress and was the incumbent board chairman of that organization.

In the Congress, he had been the ranking member of the important Committee on Armed Services, was a member of the Committee on Government Operations, and was made chairman of the major and vital House Committee on Science and Astronautics in 1959 and reappointed to this chairmanship in 1961.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Mrs. Mollie Meriwether Brooks; a lovely daughter, Miss Laura Anne Brooks; his aged and revered mother, Mrs. Penelope Overton Brooks; four sisters, and a brother. I know that each Member of the House joins with me in extending to them deep and heartfelt sympathy in their bereavement—a great loss and sorrow which we share with them.

Each of us knows that the measure of a life is in the quality, and not in the length of it. In the prime of his life in years, at the age of 63, our dear departed friend and colleague had surely measured up fully, in every respect, in the quality of his life and character, and in his service to his beloved Nation and his fellow man.

We shall keenly miss the presence of OVERTON BROOKS, but we shall long be inspired by the memory of our affectionate friendship and close association, and by the example of his devotion to duty and the value of his public service.

We all know that this world is a better place in which to live for OVERTON BROOKS having lived in it.

May his soul rest in peace. And may the God of infinite goodness comfort and sustain his loved ones.

Remarks by Representative Willis

Of Louisiana

Mr. WILLIS. Mr. Speaker, I learned with profound shock and regret, a matter of minutes ago, about the untimely passing of our eminent colleague, the distinguished dean of the Louisiana congressional delegation, OVERTON BROOKS.

Mr. Speaker, my friendship for Congressman BROOKS stretched over a period of many years before I became a Member of this body. But OVERTON and I became particularly close during the time of my service here for some 13 years. OVERTON had qualities of serious dedication to duty that few of us possess. OVERTON was completely conscientious and wholly sincere. His long service here of some 25 years developed a keen and penetrating awareness of the national and international issues confronting our country. His membership on the Armed Services Committee of the House put him in a particular position to know the critical nature of national posture, vis-a-vis the Communist threat and conspiracy, and more lately as chairman of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics he was able to apply his great talents on a broader scale in shaping the destiny of his beloved country in these critical times.

Mr. Speaker, just lately OVERTON was cited as the best posted man in the Nation in this new and frightening space age. OVERTON was a kind, unassuming, and deeply religious man. To him his church was part of his life. He was a devoted husband and a kind father. His district, his State, and his Nation and his endeared members in this body will miss him very sadly. May God have mercy on his good soul, and bring comfort to his very fine wife, Mollie, his daughter, his aged and good Christian mother, his brother, and many sisters.

Remarks by Representative George P. Miller

Of California

Mr. GEORGE P. MILLER. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart and a sense of shock that I come to the well of the House to pay my tribute to OVERTON BROOKS, with whom I have had the privilege of working intimately, first on the Armed Services Committee and then on the Committee on Science and Astronautics, for about 12 years.

Mr. Speaker, OVERTON BROOKS was a dedicated public servant, and it was through his devotion to duty that perhaps his untimely taking resulted.

He should not have come from the hospital a couple of weeks ago. He should have stayed there. But he felt the urgency of the work of the Science and Astronautics Committee, the great burdens thrown on it as the result of the decisions of the Congress. Against my judgment, at least, he left the hospital and came back down here, and then he contracted pneumonia, which took him off.

OVERTON BROOKS knew the subject born of his long service first on the Committee on Armed Services, where most of the jurisdiction now in NASA originated, and then on the Committee on Science and Astronautics. The United States is a better place and is better off in the field of space exploration as the result of his work. I assure you that his niche will be hard to fill in the Congress.

Remarks by Representative Fulton

Of Pennsylvania

Mr. FULTON. Mr. Speaker, as one of the ranking members of the Committee on Science and Astronautics I want to put on the record our feeling of sincere loss, or tragic loss, on the death of our good friend OVERTON BROOKS, of Louisiana.

OVERTON BROOKS served well as chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics. During this past year he had been one of the big boosters for space programs. OVERTON BROOKS as chairman held hearings morning and afternoon, and worked at night on his own congressional work. He is one of those who have helped push America forward in the development of space and science for peaceful purposes and for the progress of all mankind.

I served on the original House Select Committee on Space with OVERTON BROOKS. We were also high ranking members on that committee when it was appointed by the Speaker to lay out the plans on how Congress should set up its jurisdiction and the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, to handle these new programs on the coming era of space. OVERTON BROOKS was one of the interested members and a hard worker on the Select Committee on Space that preceded the House Committee on Science and Astronautics. I became very well acquainted with OVERTON as a friend at that time. His enthusiasm on the House Committee on Science and Astronautics was, I think, at the level of anyone of us who feel we are special space science boosters.

It is a pleasure to advise the Congress that OVERTON BROOKS of Louisiana was this year chosen as the Congressman of the Year in Science. I believe he lived up thoroughly to that honor. He certainly had a fine reputation for learning, and devoting his skill to these new and fantastic programs that must be translated for the average person into lay language to explain what we are doing in the United States in our space programs.

In closing, I would like to say that we members of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics on the Republican side will lose a lot of push for space progress and we will lose a lot of friendship as well in the death of Overton Brooks, our chairman. It has been a pleasure to serve under him as chairman, under his experienced leadership and guidance. We who have been working with him feel that our friend has been one of the chief architects of our present U.S. space programs.

Remarks by Representative Sikes

Of Florida

Mr. SIKES. Mr. Speaker, I am saddened indeed to learn of the death of a great and good man, an outstanding Member of the Congress. OVERTON BROOKS was my close friend for many years, a genuine friend for many years. He was a kindly man, a good man, a man of principle, a warm-hearted family man.

He was dedicated and conscientious in the discharge of his duties in a way that few men can be. It was my privilege years ago to serve with him on the Committee on Military Affairs of the House and, subsequently, to serve with him on the Committee on Armed Forces. There I learned to know him for the very fine person that he was. He was always a hard worker, always a man with a wholehearted interest in our Nation, and in the proper discharge of his duties. Always he gave a little more of himself than was required. He had a wholehearted interest in a strong defense and a strong progressive America; in right and justice for the serviceman of our country and for our veterans and the dependents of both groups.

Mr. Speaker, his was a national reputation earned through many years of sincere endeavor and conscientious application of the outstanding talents with which he was endowed.

America needs men like OVERTON BROOKS—strong men, honorable men, courageous men. I am deeply grieved that he has gone from us. We shall miss him. The Nation shall miss him. I speak for my entire delegation and my own family when I say my deep and earnest sympathies are with each member of his family.

Remarks by Representative Albert

Of Oklahoma

Mr. ALBERT. Mr. Speaker, I was totally unprepared for the shock which accompanied the news of the death of my friend, OVERTON BROOKS. I knew Congressman BROOKS since my very first day of service in the House of Representatives. His district and mine both lie in the famous Red River Valley of the South. We have common problems in that valley and Mr. BROOKS and I worked together in an effort to find solutions to those problems. In those efforts, OVERTON BROOKS was a tower of strength. He was one of the outstanding authorities in the field of resources development in the entire country. Mr. Speaker, OVERTON BROOKS had an eminent career in this field in the House of Representatives.

He was also at one time one of the ranking members of the Committee on Armed Services. His contributions in that field were many. Our defense is stronger; our security is greater; our freedom is more secure because of the life and service of our late colleague, OVERTON BROOKS.

Mr. Speaker, OVERTON BROOKS was the first chairman of the standing Committee on Science and Astronautics. The enlightened and aggressive manner in which he accelerated our space program will, in my judgment, secure the supremacy of America in this field over all the nations of the earth.

Beyond all this, Mr. Speaker, our late lamented colleague was a great man and a great American. He was devoted; he was loyal; he was courageous; he was kind. He was a Christian gentleman, and he was a practicing Christian. He was a man of faith. OVERTON BROOKS served his day and generation in a manner that reflects the greatest credit on himself and his family. We will miss you, OVERTON. May God bless and comfort your loved ones in their hour of sorrow. They have the consolation in their time of sadness that in your life and service they have been left a noble inheritance.

Remarks by Representative Harris

Of Arkansas

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, the Grim Reaper has again visited this Chamber and called from us another great public servant, another great man. OVERTON BROOKS was my neighbor. His district and mine adjoined, and I have had a very close personal association with him now for some 25 years.

Mr. Speaker, I join with the Louisiana delegation in expressing deep regret in the loss of this our friend and colleague. The record made here in this body by him and his personal record is a testimony to the life and character of OVERTON BROOKS.

He was a man devoted not only to his work, but a man who accepted challenge. As has been so well expressed, he accepted the challenge of the great responsibilities as chairman of the new Committee on Science and Astronautics; a challenge that this Nation must accept in exploration out yonder where man has not yet penetrated to the extent of becoming knowledgeable in the field and the problems that we must wrestle with in future years. This was the kind of man that OVERTON BROOKS was, and I join in expressing our regrets in his passing. We know the life that he lived was such that as he passes on into eternity, his soul will rest in peace.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to join in expressing deepest sympathy to Mrs. Brooks, their lovely daughter, and their family.

Remarks by Representative Randall

Of Missouri

Mr. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to have been assigned as a member of the House Space Committee at the beginning of this session, and my acquaintanceship with our colleague, OVERTON BROOKS, was limited to association on that committee. But we learned to know him from the very first meetings as a chairman who was fair, a chairman who insisted that every member of the committee be given an opportunity to be heard, regardless of seniority or rank on that committee. He was not simply a fair chairman, Mr. Speaker, he was as well, a chairman of accomplishment. Day after day the committee met and worked long hours under his chairmanship on matters which will have a far-reaching effect, and, yes, of great benefit and advantage to this country. Throughout every one of these long and arduous sessions he was there regularly early and late. OVERTON BROOKS was a man of vision, Mr. Speaker; a man who did not simply talk about space exploration, but stood in the well of this House and fought for it against some who may have doubted the value of space exploration and the wisdom of large appropriations. He was a real believer in the peaceful aspects of the space program as well as considerations of defense. We are saddened this morning by the news of his passing, and that goes for everyone in this body, Mr. Speaker, because, from my experience as a Member, I have never heard one person express themselves as an enemy of or speak ill about OVERTON BROOKS. He was a kindly man; he was a man of high principle; he was a man dedicated to public service.

It has been said that stature is something which must be earned, which can only be gained by hard and diligent work in this life on earth. I mention this because our departed friend had great stature in the field of space activities.

OVERTON BROOKS

In looking about for comfort today it seems we can all be consoled in knowing that he lived to receive, just a few weeks ago, the highest award that can be given, the Man of the Year for Space Achievements. We all rejoice that he lived to receive that award, even though he was then confined in the hospital. It was a reward which he most richly deserved.

May the Heavenly Father have mercy upon his good soul.

Remarks by Representative King

Of Utah

Mr. KING. Mr. Speaker, it was with a feeling of profound personal sorrow that I received the news just a few moments ago of the passing of this great American, OVERTON BROOKS. There is quite a distance between Louisiana and Utah, yet that distance was easily and gracefully bridged by OVERTON BROOKS in his dealings with me. Always he was kind, understanding, ready, and willing to help everybody. His assistance to me when I came to the House as a freshman Congressman 2 years ago and first came into association with him as a member of his committee, I shall never forget. I considered him as a personal friend.

I am particularly impressed by what he did for the committee of which he was chairman 2½ years ago, when the Committee on Science and Astronautics came into being for the first time as a full-fledged standing committee. He was its first and most able chairman. At that time the committee was, in the minds of many people, perhaps nothing more than a curiosity; clearly, it was on trial. In the hands of a less able person the committee might have remained in obscurity, its contributions nondescript and uncertain, but in the hands and under the leadership of Chairman BROOKS this committee quickly forged ahead and began to carve out for itself a great and important role. Clearly the verdict was in favor of the committee.

I doubt if any committee in Congress over a comparable period of time has had such an impressive array of great scientists, great statesmen, men of affairs, men learned in all the arts and sciences, coming before it to make their statements. As a result this committee in the last 2½ years has accumulated literature on the general subject of science and astronautics which I think constitutes one of the most authoritative archives in the world on this subject. Behind all of this has been the indefatigable leadership of this great

man. So, no matter what may happen in the future in the field of space I shall always feel that the contributions and the achievements this country may make in that field will be the result in part, and in large part, of the great service of OVERTON BROOKS.

So I offer at this time my hope and my prayer that God may be comforting and kind and may bring strength to the survivors of this man, and that his memory may continue among his colleagues and throughout the world.

Remarks by Representative Hemphill

Of South Carolina

Mr. HEMPHILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in commemorating the memory of our colleague, OVERTON BROOKS. I feel very deeply the loss of this friend.

I knew this man as a man of great talent, not only talents in the chosen field of government and political science—he was a great Congressman—but in the things that make life better, such as courtesy, devotion, and dedication. I feel he gave his talents to the Nation in a way that made this Nation a better Nation and made this world a better place in which to live.

Sometimes when we think of eternity we think of a place where the spirits go as we leave everything else behind here. I would like to think that a good man such as OVERTON BROOKS always leaves with those whom he touches the inspiration of his life.

I hope his family and his friends may find comfort in the reflection of the kind of life he lived. I feel I am a better man to have known him, I feel this Nation is better to have had him.

And I wish for his family every comfort that comes from abiding faith.

Remarks by Representative Martin

Of Massachusetts

Mr. MARTIN. Mr. Speaker, it was with great sorrow that I received the word an hour ago of the death of our beloved colleague, OVERTON BROOKS, a man whose friendship I highly prized for nearly a quarter of a century.

I remember when OVERTON BROOKS first came to the House. He came here with wholehearted enthusiasm to devote his great talents to his country, and during the intervening years he has faithfully carried out his high resolve.

It was my privilege during the last 2 years to serve closely with him as a member of the Space Committee. I know the tremendous work and the long hours he has devoted to that service which he knew was so important to our country.

Words cannot adequately state the value of his service to this country. Suffice to say, he was largely responsible for the speedup of the program to such an extent that I believe today our standing in the field of space science is higher than any other nation in the world.

It was also my privilege to serve for 6 years as vice president of the Rivers and Harbors Congress of which he was president and later chairman of the board. His work for development of our rivers and harbors and for flood control was a great contribution to America.

OVERTON BROOKS was a dedicated man. He did not come here just to serve as a Member of the House of Representatives. He came here to work and to help with all his splendid talents to make this a better country for our people to live in. We have all thrilled at his patriotic work since the Committee on Science and Astronautics was inaugurated. I have been the ranking Republican member. Never was there ever displayed the slightest partisanship. His single objective was to work for what was best for America.

Mr. Speaker, we grieve at his departure from this life. He leaves the world the realization of how extremely important is the effort to conquer space. Only a few weeks ago, he was named the outstanding Congressman of the year for science, and he received a plaque on this occasion. Fortunately he was living when this fine award was made.

I join with the Louisiana delegation and the rest of our colleagues in expressing my sorrow over his untimely death, and I extend my deepest sympathy to his good wife and family in their hour of sorrow.

Remarks by Representative McSween

Of Louisiana

Mr. McSWEEN. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and grieved to learn of the loss of our distinguished friend, OVERTON BROOKS, who was dean of the Louisiana delegation in this body.

OVERTON BROOKS was a great American. I believe it might be correctly said of him that he gave his life for his country, because during the past 3 years he has been chairman of that great Committee on Science and Astronautics. As members of that committee who served with him know, he labored overtime and gave his entire devotion to speeding up our work in the field of space.

I have known our friend for the greater part of my life. It so happens our respective families have been associated closely for a long period of time. As a matter of fact, I really cannot remember when I did not know OVERTON BROOKS.

He became a Member of this body when I was, I believe, 11 years old. I had always looked upon him with admiration.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to add a personal note. It was through his encouragement that I first became interested in seeking membership in this body. So to me this is a great personal loss, as it is to many of the membership of the House who have served with him longer than I. I take this opportunity to extend on behalf of my family and myself our heartfelt sympathy to Mrs. Brooks and to his daughter and to his many, many friends throughout Louisiana.

Remarks by Representative Chenoweth

Of Colorado

Mr. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply shocked and saddened today when I learned of the untimely passing of our beloved colleague, OVERTON BROOKS. I knew of his illness but I had assumed that he was recovering. I want to extend my sincere sympathy to the members of the Louisiana delegation in the great loss they have sustained.

Mr. Speaker, I formed a very favorable opinion of OVERTON BROOKS when I first came to the House. This opinion was confirmed when I became a member of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics 2 years ago, at the time Mr. BROOKS became the first chairman of this new committee. It has been a great pleasure and a privilege to serve on the committee under his able direction and leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I want to join my other colleagues who have paid tribute to the outstanding service he has rendered as chairman of this important committee.

The space effort has lost a true friend and a most ardent advocate. I feel that the entire space program has suffered an irreparable loss in the passing of OVERTON BROOKS. He took great pride in the fact that he was chairman of this committee. No one could have been more dedicated to his duties and responsibilities than OVERTON BROOKS. We are engaged in a race with Russia for supremacy in outer space. I personally feel that in almost every phase of space development we are ahead of Russia at this time. This is due in no small part to the influence and efforts of OVERTON BROOKS as chairman of the House committee.

Mr. Speaker, in future years when historians recount our achievements in the space age, I am sure they will point to OVERTON BROOKS as the man who was largely responsible. They will recognize OVERTON BROOKS as one of the pioneers in our space research and development program, and will award him the preeminent place which he so richly deserves.

OVERTON BROOKS

Mr. Speaker, OVERTON BROOKS was a good and kindly man, and a most affable person. I always enjoyed a visit with him, and he never failed to have a friendly greeting and a kind word. He was a dedicated and devoted public servant, and this Nation has suffered an irreparable loss in his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to extend my deep personal sympathy to Mrs. Brooks and the other members of the family.

Remarks by Representative Gubser

Of California

Mr. GUBSER. Mr. Speaker, all of us are unprepared for this loss of our friend and colleague, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS. As a result, our tributes to his memory must be spontaneous and, perhaps, lack in polish. But they will overflow with sincere reverence. At this spontaneous moment, Mr. Speaker, I presume to speak not only for myself but for the minority members of the Armed Services Committee upon which OVERTON BROOKS served so ably for so many years. As a longtime member of the Armed Services Committee and chairman of its subcommittee dealing with Reserve matters, OVERTON BROOKS contributed much to his country.

If one were asked to summarize his work on this committee, about the simplest and I think the most descriptive term we could summon would be dedicated, quiet efficiency.

In addition to his work on the Committee on Armed Services it is important to point out, I think, that OVERTON BROOKS also engaged in another great activity by his close association and work with the Rivers and Harbors Congress, dedicated to conservation and to the prevention of floods all over this Nation.

After leaving the Committee on Armed Services it was well known that his talents, his very major talents, were needed elsewhere, and he left us on the committee to head up a new committee and to assume a new responsibility for the new horizon of space. He became first chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics. In this new field and in this new challenge once again the best description of OVERTON BROOKS' performance is quiet, dedicated efficiency.

OVERTON BROOKS

As America crossed the threshold of space I will always think that some of OVERTON BROOKS' work rode with the first Americans to cross that threshold, Commander Shepard and Commander Grissom. Now that OVERTON BROOKS has permanently crossed the threshold into heavenly space, I have a feeling that he is not lost to this Congress nor to his country. I have the feeling that from his new space he is still working and will continue to work with dedicated, quiet efficiency.

Remarks by Representative Brooks

Of Texas

Mr. BROOKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a friend of OVERTON BROOKS. It was a shock when I heard of his death this morning. Our districts adjoined. I always found him courteous and understanding.

While many of the Members are aware of his contribution as chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics, I want to say on behalf of the chairman of the Committee on Government Operations, the gentleman from Illinois, the Honorable Bill Dawson, and our membership on that committee, that he was a respected member of the committee and his opinion was highly valued. He contributed significantly to the progress made by that committee. May I also point out that in addition to his activities as chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics, after he retired as ranking member with many years of background on the Committee on Armed Services, he was president of the Rivers and Harbors Congress. He maintained an interest in a wide variety of public services.

I am deeply shocked at his death. I want to extend to his family, his fine wife and daughter, whom I have had the privilege of knowing, my deepest sympathy in the passing of a man who dedicated his life to his district and to his country.

Remarks by Representative Hechler

Of West Virginia

Mr. HECHLER. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply saddened by the passing of our colleague and our friend, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS, chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics, on which I serve. He was one of the most unselfish and patriotic men I have known. He had a very human side to him, and I say this based on my own experience. When I first came to the House of Representatives, in 1959, Chairman BROOKS took me by the hand and helped me over a number of very, very rough spots. He was a wonderful human being. As chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics, OVERTON BROOKS charted a new course in the important work which the committee supervised and undertook. I extend my deepest sympathy to his family.

Remarks by Representative Roush

Of Indiana

Mr. ROUSH. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in this very sad hour to pay tribute to Chairman OVERTON BROOKS. I served on the Committee on Science and Astronautics under the leadership of Mr. BROOKS, since January of 1959, and when we refer to Mr. BROOKS as "Mr. Chairman" we did so not just because he was chairman of our committee, but we did so gladly because we had great respect for him and for his qualities of leadership. So when that expression "Mr. Chairman" was uttered, we uttered it out of great respect for the man who was leading our committee.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, came to the Congress as a new Member in 1959 and I had the benefit of Chairman BROOKS' kindness, his consideration, and leadership. During a very trying period of my own life, which occurred during the first 5 months of this year, I had constant reminders of his kindness and consideration. They came in the form of short notes of encouragement or, perhaps, only a newspaper clipping or a word or a pat on the back. But I was made very much aware of the fact that this great man was concerned over what, to me, was a personal problem.

Mr. Speaker, we will all miss Chairman OVERTON BROOKS. We will miss his spirit of patriotism which, I am sure, has inspired the young people of this Nation. We will miss his qualities of leadership which provide a challenge for all of us who are in positions of lesser leadership. We will miss the inspiration which he gave to the space program, which has been an inspiration for the entire Nation. We will miss his warm friendship which was a source of abiding strength for all of us. We know his family will miss him very much. Perhaps they can find some consolation in the fact that OVERTON BROOKS is now with his Maker. Perhaps they can find some consolation in the fact that he has been responsible for writing important pages in the history book of America. We will miss him. I will miss him very, very much.

Remarks by Representative Ryan

Of New York

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that I join my colleagues in paying tribute to the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS who was chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics. It was my privilege to serve on that committee where I came to know the chairman as a warm individual and a fair chairman. OVERTON BROOKS took a very special interest in the new members of the committee. I was immediately impressed by his tireless dedication and devotion to this Nation. His knowledge of space was extensive, and his determination that the United States be first in space, I believe, has contributed and will continue to contribute greatly to the rapid advance of the United States in space technology. OVERTON BROOKS recognized in a unique way the important role that science plays in today's world. He appointed a special panel on science and technology consisting of the foremost scientists in the country to meet with our committee and to advise us.

Mr. Speaker, we shall miss OVERTON BROOKS on the committee, and his country will greatly miss his ability and his devotion and statesmanship.

Mr. Speaker, I extend my deepest sympathy to the members of his family.

Remarks by Representative Doyle

Of California

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, the Members of the House who knew our late departed friend and colleague, Hon. OVERTON BROOKS, better than I did and who have so eloquently paid tribute to him, have said these things far better than I can. Most of you knew him longer than I did, and yet, as I came to the Congress about 14 years ago, and until he became chairman of the Space Committee about 2 years ago, we sat on the Committee on Armed Services from day to day it was my pleasure several times to sit on certain subcommittees of Armed Services of which OVERTON was chairman. I think perhaps one of the most unusual experiences I had with him, perhaps different than had any other Member of this House, was several years ago when the Honorable Carl Vinson, chairman of Armed Services, named a special hearing committee of the Committee on Armed Services, of which special hearing committee I became chairman. The matter before that special committee involved the subject matter of an oil district in Louisiana, in OVERTON'S congressional district in his State of Louisiana. The issue was the question of whether or not certain governmental departments should be permitted to lease very, very valuable and extensive Federal Government oil lands which were adjoining lands proven in very substantial production and which Government land was immediately contiguous to OVERTON BROOKS' constituents' lands worth millions of dollars in oil were concerned. I never saw a man more loyal or faithful or more diligent to his constitutents.

He was fully informed and ably represented his district. We on that special subcommittee recognized that in his several appearances before our special subcommittee. He recognized the fact that he, OVERTON BROOKS, was a U.S. Representative; always bearing in mind his Nation's interests, also. He was fair and diligent to his constituents, and yet always

aware of the fact that the national interests must never be forgotten, and I wish to pay this just tribute to him. I also extend deepest sympathy to his beloved family and add that whenever I met him I felt that a breath of fresh, pure air had come in with him. He was clean as a hound's tooth. He was the sort other worthy men liked to be in the company of. It was a daily inspiration to count him as a friend as well as a dedicated Christian Congressman.

Remarks by Representative Philbin

Of Massachusetts

Mr. PHILBIN. Mr. Speaker, I am greatly shocked and deeply touched and grieved to learn of the untimely passing of my dear and valued friend, OVERTON BROOKS.

I served with OVERTON BROOKS on the Military Affairs Committee and later on the Armed Services Committee for more than 16 years.

He was endowed with great gifts and outstanding ability. He was a statesman and a patriot of unexcelled quality.

Untiring in his devotion to his work, profoundly dedicated, conscientious and industrious beyond belief, this beloved son of the great State of Louisiana was one of the greatest Americans who has served in this body. Kindly and amiable by nature, he was always generous and considerate and eager to help his colleagues, his constituents, and the people.

Modest and humble of spirit, he never swerved from his convictions and he never allowed the great distinctions and honors he won as a great American leader to change his outlook.

OVERTON BROOKS leaves us a great heritage and a blessed memory—a heritage of devoted, unselfish, dedicated service, and a memory of a dear, beloved friend whose loyalty, kindness, and nobility of purpose has made the way easier for many of us who served with him. His splendid contributions to the Nation will long be remembered here and we will all sorely miss this inspiring friend and outstanding colleague, a fine Christian gentleman and a great American.

I extend most heartfelt sympathy to his devoted wife and family for the irreparable loss they have suffered.

May the good Lord continue to bless this dear friend and noble colleague, and bring him peace and rest in his heavenly reward.

Remarks by Representative Edmondson

Of Oklahoma

Mr. EDMONDSON. Mr. Speaker, in the untimely death of the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS, this House has lost one of its most valued Members, the State of Louisiana has lost one of its finest sons and noblest gentlemen, and the Nation has lost one of its ablest statesmen.

I say that the House has lost one of its most valued Members, because this was a man who sat as chairman of an important committee and who has had much to contribute to the knowledge and the understanding of this entire body.

I say that his State has lost one of its finest sons and noblest gentlemen, because in his experience with other people OVERTON BROOKS was a man who always exemplified the quality of kindness. I do not think I ever had contact with him, certainly in any request for his help or his guidance, in which he did not give freely of his time, of his very broad knowledge and of his understanding. This quality of kindness to others is one that I think OVERTON BROOKS personified, but beyond that and more important to us as Americans, he was an able statesman. He had perhaps the most important God-given quality of all statesmen, and that is the quality of foresight and vision. His activity as a member of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress has already been mentioned; as a matter of fact, he was president of that body which devotes its efforts to building for the future, to conserving our great resources. In this sense, also, his leadership as chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics was typical of the man and of his statesmanship, because here also he demonstrated a long view, a statesmanlike foresight and vision which nourished and strengthened this Nation of ours at a time of terrible danger. All of us will miss him not only as his colleagues, but also as Americans who have benefited greatly by his service in this body. To his family I extend my own deep and sincere sympathy in their grievous loss.

Remarks by Representative Poage

Of Texas

Mr. POAGE. Mr. Speaker, much has been said this evening about the public service of our distinguished colleague, OVERTON BROOKS. I would not dwell upon those services, extensive and distinguished as they were, because they are matters of public record. All who read in every clime may know of the public achievements of our colleague.

I came to the Congress along with OVERTON BROOKS, and I have served with him here for some 26 years. It seems to me that it is appropriate that those of us who have dealt with him throughout the years should bear testimony to his human characteristics. It has been pointed out, and I would reemphasize, that OVERTON BROOKS was one of those deeply sincere, diligent, and conscientious individuals who went his way working all the time, not only for his Nation but for the individuals with whom he dealt.

It is a great thing for Members of Congress to have the personal and sincere interest in their colleagues that OVERTON BROOKS always had. Possibly I am especially impressed with OVERTON'S unfailing friendly concern for others, because he represented a district which adjoins my State of Texas and he represented a district in northwestern Louisiana where there is no Sabine River between our States, nothing but an imaginary line. People on our side deal with Shreveport, and people over there do business with folks in Texas. There is very little to distinguish the boundary.

My wife was born in the district so long represented by Mr. BROOKS. Many of the family still reside there. I know of the high opinion they have always had of OVERTON BROOKS. As I knew him here in Congress I had occasion to verify that high regard, as I know every one of you who have lived and worked with OVERTON BROOKS can testify.

So I would seek only to add to the testimony of his colleagues as to how we are going to miss this man, how we are going to try to fill a loss that we cannot fill.

Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity to extend to his family our sympathies and the assurance that, in their grief, they may be assured of the prayers of all of his colleagues, because I know that is the wish of all of us.

Remarks by Representative Daddario

Of Connecticut

Mr. DADDARIO. Mr. Speaker, I was in the office of the Committee on Science and Astronautics this morning at about 11 o'clock when I learned of the death of our friend, OVERTON BROOKS, chairman of the committee. I felt a sense of profound shock at the suddenness of the news and of the fact that this great man has passed to his reward. The members of the staff who were present were also, of course, greatly affected. It indicated the strong feeling they had for the man as an individual who had the faith and confidence of those who worked under him.

There is no question about the great contribution he has rendered to this Nation here in the Congress, and especially during the last few years, when he has served as chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics. These contributions are of a pioneer nature since he was the first chairman of this committee. He has had to fight a battle to build up a program which would make this country preeminent in space. I think he has done that. Only recently he supported the program which will bring a man from the United States to the moon within the next decade. That will be one of the great accomplishments of all time.

These are merely parts of the responsibilities he has carried out as a Member of the Congress. He has conducted himself so that without question a strong memory of him will live in the history of this country as it is eventually written. We must not ignore the fact that he has been a close and kind friend to all of us, especially those of us who have served as members of his committee.

He has been kind to us individually. He has given us aid and assistance. He has allowed us opportunity to generate our own ideas and to reflect them within the workings of the committee itself.

OVERTON BROOKS

Mr. Speaker, I extend to his family my most heartfelt sympathy. I am confident that his work will live long after him and his memory will remain with us in the years ahead. That is, of course, as it should be when the time comes for a great man to pass to his reward, and in this we are all extremely sorry and sad.

Remarks by Representative John W. Davis

Of Georgia

Mr. JOHN W. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise as one of the junior members of the Committee on Science and Astronautics. I wish to identify myself with the remarks which have been made on this occasion by my colleagues. It was with a sense of profound personal loss as well as one of shock that I heard the news of the passing of our distinguished chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I once heard the expression: "Lo, a mighty oak hath fallen."

That expression seems to fit this occasion. An irreparable loss has been suffered by this body—a loss of one of its Members who was many, many years in perfecting his ability to the point that he could render the type of service which he rendered, not only to this body but to his constituency and to his country. His natural ability and talent, coupled with the many years of experience he had accumulated here in the mainstream of the legislative life of this country, serves to underscore the fact that in his passing this country has suffered a loss that cannot be replaced.

Mr. Speaker, I do not feel that I possess the powers of articulation to describe adequately the many fine attributes of character that Mr. BROOKS possessed. I did not know him as long as many of my colleagues who have preceded me today, but I did know him long enough to form a close personal attachment to him and to realize that in his personality was a model worthy of emulation.

Mr. Speaker, I feel it is significant that in paying tribute to his memory so many of his colleagues have used the words "kind," "dedicated," "hard working," and "conscientious." I feel that by living the life he led that he had built himself a monument in the minds and hearts of his fellowmen which will be more enduring than bronze and more lasting than marble.

Remarks by Representative Corman

Of California

Mr. CORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am one of those who had the privilege of knowing OVERTON BROOKS for only 8 months. Yet I have the same respect and same affection for him as has been expressed by those that knew him nearly a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, just this morning I signed a letter addressed to the chairman to express my appreciation for what he had done for this country, for this Congress and for us as individuals. It is with heavy heart that I realize that I shall not now mail this letter. But if I may, I would like to read the closing paragraph:

> If I may end on a personal note, I wish to convey my sincere thanks to you for the many kindnesses extended to me during committee hearings, and the very sound and important advice you have always been willing to give when I have asked.
>
> I am looking forward eagerly to our committee's work during the next session and, if political fortune smiles on me, for many sessions to come.

Mr. Speaker, I truly regret that our committee and I will be denied those future years. Yet I would observe that so long as there are Members in this House who have served with OVERTON BROOKS, his dedication and his kindness will be an inspiration to us.

Remarks by Representative Forrester

Of Georgia

Mr. FORRESTER. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. BROOKS] was my next-door neighbor in the New House Office Building. Additionally, he was my genuine and abiding friend.

Certainly he was one of the hardest workers I have ever had the privilege of knowing. World conditions weighed heavily upon this distinguished man. His heart was bowed down with responsibility, that I personally know. He wanted to be dead certain that he performed every service that a loyal, patriotic, and loving citizen and servant could perform.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am inclined to think that he gave himself so unreservedly to the public and to the times that he had none of the reserve strength left that would permit him to be victorious over this sickness that befell him. Just last week as he lay out there in the hospital he thought all the time of legislation on this floor. Daily his office force would come into my office and say to me, "The Congressman wants to know what is going on. He wants to know if they need him over there." On one occasion they said, "The Congressman is going to get out of bed and he is coming over, because he thinks he should be on the floor."

That, Mr. Speaker, to my mind typifies OVERTON BROOKS. His record and his life speak for themselves. Truly, truly, a brave soldier, a faithful soldier, a consecrated soldier has fallen. But he fell in the line of duty. I know that God will not only have mercy upon his soul but He will be kind and gracious to the wife and to the family he left behind.

Mr. Speaker, I believe his life and his service will be a model for us, particularly those who knew him and those who loved him. His country will miss him, for he loved his country.

Remarks by Representative Mahon

Of Texas

Mr. MAHON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the memory of our departed friend, OVERTON BROOKS. I had been closely associated with him throughout his service here. He was my friend and I was his. We often discussed our legislative problems together. He was deeply concerned about our defense program. He was always strongly on the side of preparedness and strength. He strove to promote the welfare of our country. He was a patriot, an able and devoted servant of his district and the Nation.

OVERTON BROOKS represented the area of Louisiana where I was born. He was the Representative of many of my relatives and dear friends. I had always wished him and his district well. I mourn the loss of a valuable friend and I extend sympathy to the family left behind.

Remarks by Representative McCormack

Of Massachusetts

Mr. McCORMACK. Mr. Speaker, the death of our dear and beloved friend, OVERTON BROOKS, takes from our midst one of the outstanding Members of Congress. His passing takes from me, too, Mr. Speaker, a dear, valued, and close personal friend.

Mr. Speaker, this Chamber is filled with the memories of men who have served our country in the past in an outstanding manner. One of the memories now is the service in this body of OVERTON BROOKS. OVERTON BROOKS served with great distinction in this body—serious, a man who devoted himself to the problems that confront us; a man who served our country with great distinction as a member of the Committee on Armed Services—always on the side of strength which is so important in this trying period in the world's history. He was one who recognized the evil and destructive mind of the Communists.

When the Speaker and I were looking for a chairman of the new and important Committee on Science and Astronautics, we turned to OVERTON BROOKS. He had made a great record for himself and an outstanding record prior to being chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics. But, as chairman of that committee, a new committee of the Congress with its great responsibilities, he made great and significant contributions to the progress of our country. I consider this committee to be one of the most important in both branches of the Congress of the United States. I consider OVERTON BROOKS as its first chairman has laid a foundation for all future chairmen of the committee to follow and to emulate. As chairman of the committee, he certainly was a pioneer, and it was my pleasure not only to join with the Speaker of the House in drafting OVERTON BROOKS to be chairman of this important committee, but it also was my pleasure to serve under him as a member of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, other Members have covered the many other qualities and attributes of our dear friend so I shall not review them any further. I will close by saying that the friendship OVERTON BROOKS and I had for each other for so many years was a friendship that has enriched my life and one that I shall always treasure. The people of his district are justified in feeling proud of the character of service that he rendered while he represented them in this body because he always reflected credit upon them.

Mrs. Brooks and her loved ones can justifiably derive great consolation from the noble life that OVERTON led, not only as an individual, but from the angle of his great contributions to our country during this trying period in the world's history.

To Mrs. Brooks and her loved ones, I extend my profound sympathy in their bereavement.

Remarks by Representative James C. Davis

Of Georgia

Mr. JAMES C. DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana for granting me the opportunity to express my grief and sorrow at the news which we just heard here in the House, and to express in feeble words, which do not actually carry the meaning that I would like to express, the high admiration and personal affection which I had for the gentleman from Louisiana, OVERTON BROOKS, who passed away today.

For a number of years his office was just two doors down the hall from mine on the first floor of the New House Office Building. When he moved into that location, I was amazed to see the diligence which he exhibited, the unusual hours which he worked, and the unflagging attention which he always gave to his congressional duties. I have seen him working in his office on Saturday afternoons, on Sundays, and during the late hours of the night. He was one of the most conscientious Members of the Congress that I have had the privilege to know in keeping up his work.

When he was a member of the Committee on Armed Services there was considerable technical legislation from that committee during the years, and I have on occasion asked OVERTON to join me in the weekly television program which I send down to my district each week to be exhibited to my constituents for the purpose of explaining to them some of the intricate details of legislation coming out of the committee on which he served. He always was glad to comply with my request to go on my program and explain those details. I am confident that his kindness resulted in many people in my congressional district having a clearer understanding of legislation than they otherwise would have had.

He was a kindly person; he was a humble person; he was a person who had the common touch, I believe, and knew the problems of what we commonly refer to as the common man.

I learned to have great respect for him; I learned to have personal affection for him. It was a great surprise and shock to me to hear today of his passing.

I join the numerous other friends and colleagues who have already expressed themselves here in extending to his wife and to his family deep and sincere sympathy and to utter the hope that Almighty God will grant them the consolation which only He can give at a time like this.

Remarks by Representative Evins

Of Tennessee

Mr. EVINS. Mr. Speaker, permit me to join with my colleagues from Louisiana and others in paying a brief but sincere tribute to the life and memory of our distinguished colleague and friend, Hon. OVERTON BROOKS, of Louisiana.

I learned the sad news of his passing just as I walked on the floor, hearing tributes and eulogies to his life and service in the Congress. I am certainly saddened and shocked to learn of his passing.

I admired OVERTON BROOKS as a most dedicated and conscientious Congressman. He was an untiring worker, devoted to his district and State and to the service of our country. His accomplishments were immense in the service of the Nation. He served as the first chairman of the House Committee on Space and Astronautics and devoted himself to the advancement of the art of science and space exploration. His efforts have contributed much to the advancement of the position of our country in the race for supremacy of space in which our Nation is engaged.

We shall miss his genial personality in our presence.

I extend to Mrs. Brooks and the members of his family an expression of my most sincere sympathy in their bereavement.

Remarks by Representative Jensen

Of Iowa

Mr. JENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep sorrow in the passing of my esteemed friend and colleague, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS, of Louisiana.

OVERTON was a kindly and deeply sincere gentleman and a patriot of the highest order. I learned to know him well during our services together here over the past 23 years, and the better I knew him the more I respected him and his good works for the country he so dearly loved.

May Almighty God give his good wife and family strength to bear the great loss they have suffered is my earnest prayer.

Remarks by Representative Smith

Of Mississippi

Mr. SMITH. Mr. Speaker, the passing of OVERTON BROOKS is a great loss to our country. His devotion to the sound and proper development of our water resources was one of his greatest legislative interests. OVERTON served for many years as president of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress.

He was a patriotic American, completely devoted to the progress and security of our country. I join with his many friends in mourning his passing.

Remarks by Representative Kilday

Of Texas

Mr. KILDAY. Mr. Speaker, with real regret I have learned that our colleague, OVERTON BROOKS, has passed away. His untimely passing is a great loss to his district, the State of Louisiana and the Congress of the United States.

For 20 years I served with him on the former Committee on Military Affairs and its successor, the Committee on Armed Services. He was totally devoted to his country and its welfare. He was always a strong supporter of our Military Establishment and of adequate national defense.

Upon creation of the Committee on Science and Astronautics in 1959 he was chosen as its first chairman and continued in that position until the time of his death. He labored incessantly to organize the new committee and to launch it upon the successful discharge of its all-important functions. Mr. BROOKS has served with distinction as chairman of that committee as he did as a member of the Committee on Armed Services and the other committees upon which he served during his 25 years of service in this body.

I extend to his wife and the other members of his family my sincere sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Van Zandt

Of Pennsylvania

Mr. VAN ZANDT. Mr. Speaker, the announcement of the death of our esteemed colleague, OVERTON BROOKS, of Louisiana, is a source of deep sorrow and I extend my sincere sympathy to members of the Brooks family in the great loss they have sustained.

My good friend OVERTON BROOKS preceded me in Congress by one term, having been elected to the 75th Congress and served the 4th District of Louisiana and the Nation with honor and distinction as evidenced by his reelection to 12 succeeding Congresses.

It was my great privilege to serve with OVERTON BROOKS on the House Committee on Armed Services and during his membership on that committee among his many assignments was his chairmanship of the subcommittee concerned with legislation affecting the Reserve Forces of the Nation. As a result he was recognized as an authority on Reserve matters and the author of various laws affecting Reserve personnel.

In tendering this heartfelt tribute of love and respect for our departed colleague, I am mindful of his great contributions to the national security of this Nation by his deep devotion to his duty in various important assignments as a Member of Congress.

Finally, OVERTON BROOKS was a great American and was blessed with a brilliant mind and sincerity of purpose, using such fine characteristics in establishing an outstanding record as one of the Nation's great lawmakers. OVERTON BROOKS was a kindly individual and I am indebted to him for his wise counsel on many occasions when we discussed pending legislation affecting our Armed Forces.

Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in this tribute to the late OVERTON BROOKS because I sincerely mourn the death of such a great American.

Remarks by Representative Roudebush

Of Indiana

Mr. ROUDEBUSH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join the other Members of the body who have expressed their sympathy on the passing of the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS, of Louisiana. His death distresses me very much. Although I have known Mr. BROOKS only since January last, when I was assigned to the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, of which Mr. BROOKS served with distinction as the chairman. I admired him very much and especially note the fine and impartial way in which he conducted the affairs of this important committee. Mr. BROOKS received many honors due him for his work in the field of advancing the U.S. space effort. These honors were well deserved. I know that I join with every Member of this body in the realization that our country has lost an outstanding citizen, and a fine leader. I know that his loss will be keenly felt, especially by those of us who worked so closely with him on the Space Committee.

Remarks by Representative Bell

Of California

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I learned today of the passing of Congressman OVERTON BROOKS, the dean of the Louisiana congressional delegation. The Government and the people of the United States have suffered a great loss in the demise of this very outstanding citizen. As chairman of the very important Committee on Science and Astronautics, he has contributed substantially to America's successes in its drive toward the conquest of outer space. Being a freshman member of this committee I have had the privilege to serve under Congressman BROOKS and to observe and admire his knowledge and his insight and his tireless efforts to the United States in his field. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family of this distinguished patriot, OVERTON BROOKS.

Remarks by Representative Libonati

Of Illinois

Mr. LIBONATI. Mr. Speaker, our beloved colleague, OVERTON BROOKS, of Louisiana, was a gentle individual who was conscientious in his legislative responsibilities to his State and Nation.

His contribution of ideas and efforts as chairman of the Committee on Space measured him as an expert in this field. His continued service for 12 terms sparkles with the true greatness of this kind and Christian individual in his work.

He was courageous and accepted every challenge presented to him. He loved his dear family and certainly the proud record that was his in public and private life will give them strength to withstand the sadness that has come to them in this critical hour.

As in the experience of every public servant, any criticisms leveled in his direction touched a sensitive core. He was a truly dedicated public servant—honest and considerate in his dealings with his fellow man. God, the ruler of the destiny of man, in His various and wondrous ways calls to His own those He loves. And so be it—for it is the only way to everlasting life. He earned that happiness beyond the portals of man's mortal life on earth. May God's blessing welcome him home.

Remarks by Representative Morris

Of New Mexico

Mr. MORRIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to our friend and great American, OVERTON BROOKS. He was my committee chairman and also my friend. Mr. BROOKS was never too busy to help a colleague, he had a kind word for everyone, and my deepest sympathy goes to his wife and daughter.

Remarks by Representative Halleck

Of Indiana

Mr. HALLECK. Mr. Speaker, for me there are two basic attributes that serve to distinguish a Member of this body during his career in the Congress of the United States.

The first is that he be a man of convictions—and since we operate under a two-party system, all of us must recognize that honest disagreement must be respected.

The second attribute—and it is indispensable to the first—is that a man have the courage of those convictions, because here on the floor of the House of Representatives we are put to the test, time and again.

OVERTON BROOKS, to my mind, was a Member who possessed both of those attributes.

He came to the 75th Congress, just shortly after I came to Washington, and through the years that we served here together I considered him a real friend, as I hope he did me.

He was a sound, solid American, hard working and conscientious.

His colleagues fittingly called on him to take the important assignment as first chairman of the Space Committee.

Typical of his understanding that ours is a system which gains its strength from a liaison between both sides of the aisle on problems that concern the welfare of the country, he always thoughtfully invited me to attend those functions that might be useful in the furtherance of such understanding. This I appreciated.

His devoted Americanism was reflected, for me, in the fact that he interrupted his college career to serve in the Armed Forces during World War I.

His determination to make something of himself was demonstrated in the fact that he returned to school, after the war, to complete his education.

OVERTON BROOKS' career from that time on justifies the faith he had in his own abilities.

His many contributions to a better country exemplify the American creed of self-reliance, ambition, and initiative.

The loved ones he leaves to carry on may take consolation in his achievements, and to them I offer my heartfelt sympathies in their bereavement.

Remarks by Representative Weis

Of New York

Mrs. WEIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with sadness and a sense of deep regret that I rise to join in paying respect to the memory of Representative OVERTON BROOKS, the distinguished chairman of the House Science and Astronautics Committee, who passed away this morning.

It has been my privilege to serve on the Science and Astronautics Committee during this past year and, while I did not have the pleasure of knowing Congressman BROOKS as long or as well as some of his other colleagues, I can attest to the fact that there was not a more dedicated or conscientious committee chairman in the Congress than OVERTON BROOKS.

Chairman BROOKS believed deeply in the work of his committee and in the vast importance of space exploration and he gave unstintingly of his time and energies to America's space efforts. It is due in large measure to the work of devoted and farsighted men like OVERTON BROOKS that this country has made such tremendous strides in the peaceful exploration of outer space and the entire Nation is deeply in his debt.

On a more personal basis, in my association with him I found OVERTON BROOKS to be a kind and generous man. His was a cheerful, happy disposition; he always had time in his busy life for a smile and a pleasant greeting for everyone. He was tolerant and unselfish and sincerely interested in the viewpoint of others, and as a result it was a distinct pleasure for me to serve on the same committee with him.

The passing of Representative BROOKS is a great loss to the fine people of Louisiana's Fourth District, whom he represented so ably for over a quarter of a century, and to the Nation. To his family, for whom his passing is the greatest loss of all, I should like to express my most sincere sympathies.

Remarks by Representative Horan

Of Washington

Mr. HORAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to join with my colleagues in paying tribute to our departed colleague, OVERTON BROOKS.

It was my high privilege to know OVERTON personally and to work with him on many occasions. I was aware of his great devotion to this Nation of ours and his keen intent at all times to be fair and to work for the good of all of us—not only for his beloved State of Louisiana, but his interest extended in a personal way even to the State of Washington. It is when one observes one of his colleagues in the matter of his nationwide interest, and even his worldwide interest, that one grows to love and respect such a person as OVERTON BROOKS. Much has been said about his effective work in the Congress, his tremendous interest in the Committee on Science and Astronautics which he headed and his great contributions to progress in those fields. I merely mention them here to accentuate that phase of his great ability.

I wish to join with all of my colleagues in extending my deepest sympathy to the family of OVERTON BROOKS.

Remarks by Representative Dorn

Of South Carolina

Mr. DORN. Mr. Speaker, I was saddened and shocked when informed of the passing of my warm, personal friend, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS.

OVERTON BROOKS was an institution in this House. He was always friendly, affable, and enthusiastic. He had the type of personality that we enjoyed being associated with. He had a sense of humor and we always looked forward to going on trips with him and having meals with him. He was a gentleman of the old school—with gentle manners and radiating courtesy. He was a true son of the Old South, upholding its traditions, principles, and ideals.

OVERTON BROOKS was more than a southerner. He was more than a loyal citizen of the great State of Louisiana. He was first an American, loyal to his country and a statesman with foresight. As chairman of his great committee, he was one of the leaders of the free world. OVERTON BROOKS gave his life for his country in the heat of battle. This House is a better body having known and associated with OVERTON BROOKS. His fellow citizens in Louisiana are to be commended for their good judgment in sending him to the service of their country for so long a period.

Mrs. Dorn joins me in extending to his lovely wife and daughter, his colleagues in the House, and his fellow citizens of the great State of Louisiana, my most heartfelt and deepest sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Riehlman

Of New York

Mr. RIEHLMAN. Mr. Speaker, it was with considerable sadness that I learned of the passing of our good friend and colleague, OVERTON BROOKS. His presence will be sorely missed here. Having been rather closely associated with him for the past 3 years through our work on the Science and Astronautics Committee, I can attest to the zeal with which he has guided our committee through its infancy in the performance of its most difficult and demanding tasks. His untiring efforts to provide effective legislative guidance for our space program have certainly contributed greatly to the success of that program.

During his years of service, OVERTON BROOKS' recognized ability and sincere and conscientious devotion to duty have left a mark that will not soon be equaled.

I want to extend my condolences to his family in this hour of bereavement.

Remarks by Representative Whitener

Of North Carolina

Mr. WHITENER. Mr. Speaker, it was with a deep sense of sadness that I learned today of the passing of our distinguished colleague and friend from Louisiana, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS.

The people of the Fourth District of Louisiana have lost an able and devoted Representative and the Nation has lost a statesman whose vision and understanding of the problems of our time earned for him the respect of everyone who had the privilege to know him and observe his work in the Congress. OVERTON BROOKS was an outstanding Congressman and his record of more than 25 years of dedicated service in the House of Representatives stands as a lasting monument to his name.

His long and distinguished career in public service will be a source of inspiration to all of us in the Congress and to his countless friends throughout the country. I want to extend my profound sympathy to the members of his family on their great loss. May they be comforted during their bereavement by the knowledge that our Heavenly Father has opened unto him the gateway to the larger life and has received him into the Divine Presence.

Remarks by Representative Flynt

Of Georgia

Mr. FLYNT. Mr. Speaker, with the feeling of sadness that accompanies the loss of a friend and colleague, I join in paying tribute to the life and memory of Honorable OVERTON BROOKS, late a Representative from Louisiana.

I was both shocked and saddened when news reached us a few minutes ago that Mr. BROOKS had passed away. We knew that he had been ill, but we thought that he was recovering satisfactorily. I am sure that all of us were wholly unprepared for the sad news of his death.

From the very first day that I came to Congress, I have known, liked, admired, and respected him. I considered him my warm personal friend and I know that he was an able public servant and an outstanding Member of the House of Representatives.

He served as the first chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics after it was made a standing committee of the House of Representatives. He helped to pioneer and lead in a new and uncharted field of national legislation. He commanded the support and respect of the membership of the House of Representatives in his capacity as committee chairman, as well as an individual Member of this body.

From the very first time that I met him until his passing today, I found him always willing and able to be helpful to me as I am sure he was to other Members of the House.

A member of a distinguished family in his native State of Louisiana, he has lived a life of service to his community, his State, his Nation, and his fellow man. He will be mourned and missed by all who knew him, not only those of us who served with him in the House of Representatives but by countless thousands of loyal friends and neighbors in his home State. The State of Louisiana and our Nation have today lost an able and dedicated public servant and a fine and honorable gentleman.

Mrs. Flynt joins me in extending to Mrs. Brooks and their daughter our heartfelt sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Bennett

Of Florida

Mr. BENNETT. Mr. Speaker, OVERTON BROOKS was a great leader for things for the betterment of mankind. He had justly earned a powerful place in American Government. Yet, in his passing most of us feel most keenly the loss of him as a daily comrade, a friend, and helper to people and causes needing assistance. I served with him for years on the Armed Services Committee and never did he do anything but helpful and friendly things to those in his large sphere of influence. Our country is more ably defended because of his work on that committee. Then, we all know of his important work as chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics. He demonstrated there an ability to envision the new horizons and plateaus that lie ahead for this country and this world. My deepest sympathy goes out to his family and loved ones. I hope that the knowledge that they must have of his great service to mankind will be of some comfort to them in their distress.

Remarks by Representative Thompson

Of Texas

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues, particularly those from the State of Louisiana, in grief that we have lost from among us our friend of many years, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS. Many fine words have been spoken today in tribute to this outstanding statesman. To all of them I subscribe. I would add only a personal experience of my own which I think is typical of the man and is one of those incidents by which he would have wanted to be remembered. Just about a year ago I was asked to find a speaker on the subject of the U.S. program in connection with outer space. The speaker was to address a district convention of the Kiwanis Clubs. I told OVERTON the problem and asked him to suggest someone who could and would do the job. He said, "Why, Clark, I'll take care of that myself." So, last fall, he gave of his busy time to do this for me and my people. He said that it was a small thing to do but to you and me who know so well the value of such personal and thoughtful acts it assumes, quite properly, considerable proportions. In his case it is one of hundreds of similar deeds and it tells something of the reasons why we are so grieved today. My sympathy goes to his family, to his Louisiana colleagues, to his constituents, and to the Nation he loved so well.

Remarks by Representative Rooney

Of New York

Mr. ROONEY. Mr. Speaker, I was truly shocked this morning to learn of the unexpected passing of our distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana, Mr. BROOKS.

OVERTON BROOKS was one of the friendliest and nicest gentlemen I have had occasion to meet over my years. I came to know him well as the result of our having served together during World War II on the then House Committee on Military Affairs. In 1944 OVERTON and I were in a group that visited the battlefields of the Western and Italian fronts.

I feel that I have lost a good friend. This Nation, the State of Louisiana, and his constituents in the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana have lost a distinguished citizen, a highly competent legislator, and a good friend. His good wife and daughter have my deepest sympathy and prayers in their great loss.

Remarks by Representative O'Hara

Of Illinois

Mr. O'HARA. Mr. Speaker, when I came to the Congress OVERTON BROOKS was in his sixth term. He was gracious, generous, and helpful to me in every way. Our friendship ripened during the years of our association together in this Chamber. I shall miss the warmth of his smile and the cheer of his greeting. He served with the 1st Regular Army in France, Belgium, and Germany in World War I, and later as a member of the Committee on Armed Services he served his country with the same patriotic dedication in the field of statesmanship. At the time of his passing he was chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics, a leader among the pioneers reaching out for that day when no longer man will be earthbound. His name will be linked with history. To the members of his family I extend my deepest sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Mills

Of Arkansas

Mr. MILLS. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in the House of Representatives in paying tribute to our departed friend and colleague, the admired and esteemed OVERTON BROOKS, of Louisiana, first chairman of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics.

It was a shock to me as it was to all the Members of the House to learn of his sudden passing. As has been stated, we had been advised that he was recuperating from a recent operation, and it was our hope and expectation that he would rejoin us here on the floor this week.

OVERTON BROOKS possessed in full measure those personal qualities of honor, integrity, and patriotism, of which our colleagues have heretofore spoken. He was a leader and a statesman and his work in establishing our Armed Forces Reserve and the Committee on Science and Astronautics on a sound basis is well known to everyone.

However, I would like to address my brief comments at this time to another quality, that of conscientious devotion to duty. OVERTON BROOKS spent all his working life in taking care of the needs of his district, his committee, and the Nation. He literally worked about a 20-hour day, 7 days a week. He was a man of temperate habits who diligently devoted attention to the best interests of the Nation. He took the time and effort to thoroughly brief himself on matters within the jurisdiction of his committee. As a committee chairman, I am in a position to know what a big task this is. Members also know that in launching a new committee—the Committee on Science and Astronautics—OVERTON devoted himself completely to the task. As its first chairman he established a record of achievement for that committee which will stand the test of time. He paid a great deal of attention to our space program and he is responsible, I believe, in large measure, for the speedup of the

program. His death is a loss to the Nation, to the House of Representatives, but his achievements will stand as a monument to his patriotism, devotion to duty, and his integrity in the years to come.

I extend to his family and to his many friends in Washington and Louisiana my condolences and deepest sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Casey

Of Texas

Mr. CASEY. Mr. Speaker, it was indeed a great loss when I learned this morning of the death of a friend, the chairman of my committee. He indeed set an example that will be one for the rest of us to follow. As chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics he can well go down in the history of this Congress and this country as having done the most to really put the United States into the space age. His dedication and devotion to duty have been unexcelled.

I wish to extend my sincere and deepest sympathy to his family on their great loss. I know the void will be felt in the House of Representatives for many years to come. He was, indeed, dedicated not only to his country but to his beloved State and to his beloved family.

Mr. Speaker, I join with all of my other colleagues in this sad hour in extending to his family our prayers of comfort.

Remarks by Representative Van Pelt

Of Wisconsin

Mr. VAN PELT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in commemorating the memory of our colleague, OVERTON BROOKS. I came to know OVERTON during my first years in Congress and then became more closely associated with him during the time I have served on the Science and Astronautics Committee of which he was chairman.

OVERTON was one the most dedicated men I have known, and perhaps it was this dedication that may have contributed to his untimely passing. He was an inspiration to all of us on the committee, and I hope that his family and his friends may find comfort in the reflection of the kind of a life he lived.

I wish for his family every comfort that comes from an abiding faith.

Remarks by Representative Sisk

Of California

Mr. SISK. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues in the feeling of shock at the loss of our friend and colleague, OVERTON BROOKS.

It was my good fortune to serve with OVERTON on the Select Committee on Space which was created in the shadow of sputnik in 1958 and later to serve under his chairmanship as a member of the Science and Astronautics Committee. I know of his deep concern for America's position in the space race and his determination to make America first in this important field.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I wish also to comment upon his deep devotion to America and his strong support for the full and complete development of its natural resources, as is evidenced by his long services as an officer of the Rivers and Harbors Congress. He spared no effort in his support of programs for the building of America and those of us in the West shall ever be grateful for his support for the great water projects which have been so vital in building that part of our great country.

OVERTON BROOKS leaves a void in this body which will not be filled. I extend to his family and to his many friends in Louisiana my deepest sympathy on the passing of this great American.

Remarks by Representative Moorhead

Of Pennsylvania

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, it was with deepest regret that I learned of the death of our colleague, the gentleman from Louisiana, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS. In paying tribute I join with those Members who knew him better than I, but I am grateful for the opportunity of serving with him for the past 3 years. I shall always remember his warmth and kindness. He extended to me, as I am sure he did every new Member of Congress, the benefit of his many years of experience in this House.

The degree of admiration and respect which was felt for OVERTON BROOKS has been manifested by the tribute paid him today. But his outstanding contributions have been long recognized by his colleagues and leaders. His most recent and important assignment was as chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics, where he played such a crucial part in planning the flight of the first American astronaut. He will be remembered as one who helped move America forward in the field of space and science. It is gratifying to note that only recently he was named as the outstanding Congressman of the Year for Science.

To Mrs. Brooks and to other members of his family, I extend my deepest sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Norrell

Of Arkansas

Mrs. NORRELL. Mr. Speaker, my feeling of regret and sorrow is exceedingly deep and keen at the death of one of my most loyal and best friends, OVERTON BROOKS. To know of the grief of his wife, Mollie, and his daughter, Anne, is to live again that tragic time which many of us have experienced. I also know that the many expressions of sympathy help to ease the pain and the sorrow that comes with so great a loss.

OVERTON BROOKS was a fine man, a stalwart man, and a Christian gentleman—one whose ear and heart were attuned to the needs of his fellow man; one who was always anxious to serve the best interests of his country.

OVERTON BROOKS was a man of high ideals and principles, and a man of unquestioned integrity. He brought to the office of Representative from the Fourth District of Louisiana a wealth of knowledge and experience, ability to lead, and an insatiable thirst for information. He was constantly in search of new methods of furthering technological assistance to his beloved United States.

Congressman BROOKS has made a secure place in the hearts and memories of those with whom he served in the Halls of the Congress. His courtesy and thoughtfulness to his colleagues was unfailing.

His innate sensitivity to the needs of those close to him was demonstrated most forcefully to me and to my office staff when sorrow came our way. OVERTON came over to the office and offered his assistance in many ways. None of us will ever cease to love him for his thoughtfulness and his kindness.

To Mollie, his beloved wife, and Anne, his adored daughter, may I say that your wonderful memories of many happy years with OVERTON will help you over spots which are made

rough with sorrow and loss. You have my deepest sympathy, in which my daughter Judy joins me.

To those of us who had the good fortune to know Congressman BROOKS as our friend, we are indeed made richer by this friendship, and better men and women for his having passed our way.

Remarks by Representative Hébert

Of Louisiana

Mr. HÉBERT. Mr. Speaker, in my 21 years of membership in this body, today marks the first day I have ever served without having OVERTON BROOKS as my colleague. I am still shocked by his death.

Down through the years I learned to know him as a tireless, diligent, and devoted Member who always gave his fullest. Eventually he became chairman of the Committee on Science and Astronautics, one of the most important posts in the free world.

Thus he was to leave this world as it stands at the threshold of the most exciting and meaningful challenge to man in history, and this is a challenge that OVERTON shared.

I am not unmindful that his death has touched closely many, many others and accordingly I join with the other Members of the Louisiana delegation in expressing my deepest sympathies to his fine wife, Mollie, and to his lovely daughter, Laura Anne, as well as to the other members of his family.

Remarks by Representative Elliott

Of Alabama

Mr. ELLIOTT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in paying a tribute to the memory of OVERTON BROOKS, who departed from us no more than 2 hours ago.

OVERTON BROOKS was my friend throughout the period of my service here.

One only had to know OVERTON BROOKS a short while to realize that he was deeply dedicated to his country and to his district, and that he was wholly committed to their service.

The people OVERTON BROOKS served so long will miss his consecrated concern for their problems. The United States will miss the devotion which he paid her.

Remarks by Representative Patman

Of Texas

Mr. PATMAN. Mr. Speaker, in the passing of our colleague, Hon. OVERTON BROOKS, we have lost a statesman of rare foresight and stature. And my personal loss is indeed great.

OVERTON BROOKS was not only a valued friend, but a neighbor. For a quarter of a century he represented the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana, which borders on the Texas district which I have had the honor to represent over a period of time. Our geographical proximity gave us many common problems. I know that OVERTON BROOKS represented his constituents with great consideration for their welfare and the welfare of the Nation.

OVERTON BROOKS was a man of vision. He gave up his position as the ranking member of the Armed Services Committee, which, as we all know, is one of our extremely vital committees, to become chairman of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics. This committee, under his leadership, has proved to be one of our most important committees. In recognition of his many contributions to the works of this committee, Mr. BROOKS was this year chosen as the Congressman of the Year in Science.

OVERTON BROOKS was a pioneer in space technology and we can honor him by carrying on the great work he began, continuing the battle to keep America first and strong.

It is with a deep sadness and loss that we mark the passing of our esteemed colleague and devoted friend.

Remarks by Representative Beckworth

Of Texas

Mr. BECKWORTH. Mr. Speaker, it is most distressing news to know about the untimely death of my very close congressional neighbor and longtime friend, Representative OVERTON BROOKS, of Shreveport, La.

Since January 1939 I have known well Representative BROOKS. His Louisiana District and the Texas District I have the honor to represent join. We have had many mutual problems legislatively and frequently had discussed ways by which the people of our general area could be benefited.

Representative OVERTON BROOKS has been one of the hardest workers I have ever known. He was a real leader in many lines of congressional effort. No man could have been more loyal to the people of his district, his State and his Nation and to causes destined to endure than Hon. OVERTON BROOKS.

Prior to and during World War II, Congressman BROOKS as a member of the Committee on Military Affairs shouldered a heavy responsibility as America and our allies came from behind in our state of preparation to defend ourselves and then to win in record time the greatest of all wars. The contributions to this overall effort by Representative BROOKS were great indeed.

For many months he has devoted a great deal of time and thought to his duties and obligations as a chairman of one of the most important committees in Congress, the Science and Astronautics Committee. He discharged his duties as chairman of this committee in a highly successful way and no one doubts that the progress we now are making in this realm of activity is due in a large measure to his insight and his active and constant endeavors as the chairman of this very challenging committee.

We all shall miss OVERTON in many ways. May God sustain and comfort his wife and daughter, his other relatives and his many friends in the great loss suffered by them, by us, his colleagues in Congress, and by the people of our Nation.

Remarks by Representative Gavin

Of Pennsylvania

Mr. GAVIN. Mr. Speaker, it was with profound sadness I learned of the passing of my very good and able friend, OVERTON BROOKS. We have lost an able colleague and dear friend. To those of us who knew him well and shared his friendship, his death carries with it a sense of deep and personal loss.

He was highly respected and genuinely admired by all who knew and worked with him. It was my privilege to serve with him while he was a member of the Armed Services Committee and until he was appointed first chairman of the important Committee on Science and Astronautics.

He was a man who dedicated his life to the service of his district, State, and Nation. He was a hard, conscientious worker and on all problems he responded with a willingness to be helpful in any way that he could.

He had an abiding faith in the principles and ideals of our Government. In all things it can be said he was an outstanding citizen and a great American and his one ambition was to hand on to posterity and the generations of tomorrow, a better America than was handed to him.

Remarks by Representative Thompson

Of Louisiana

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, it was necessary that I return to my home in Louisiana last weekend and I was deeply shocked and saddened to receive a telephone call from my Washington office around noon on Saturday telling me of the passing of my beloved friend and colleague, OVERTON BROOKS, dean of our Louisiana delegation in Congress. I had visited him in the Naval Medical Center a few hours after he underwent surgery there 3 weeks ago and each time I had inquired about this condition afterward, I received the report that he was improving, so I was unprepared for the sad news of his death.

It was my privilege to know OVERTON before coming to Congress and to serve 9 years in Congress with him. I felt he was my sincere friend. He was a good man—always kind, understanding, and helpful when I needed his counsel and assistance in any problem. He was a man of high principle and of great talents, not only in his work as Congressman, but in the personal qualities that make life better for those with whom he came in contact. He was deeply sincere and always ready and willing to help anyone who came to him for help.

OVERTON was conscientious in the discharge of his duties and I have known no one who was more dedicated and gave more of himself to serving his people, his State, and the Nation. He was a patriotic American and a great American, and his country will miss his great devotion and statesmanship. He served in a manner that reflects the highest credit on himself and his family. An example of his great talent and devotion is his work as chairman of the House Space Committee.

Day after day he worked long hours with his colleagues and staff members on important matters which came before the Space Committee and in 2½ years, under his tireless and

enthusiastic leadership, this committee has come to be one of the most important committees of the House. I feel that, through his work on the committee, he contributed much to whatever achievements our Nation has made or may make in the field of space. I am confident his work will live long after him.

He will be greatly missed by his colleagues in the House and Senate and by the host of other friends in Washington and in Louisiana who mourn his passing. My deepest sympathy is extended to Mrs. Brooks and Anne and to the other members of his family.

Remarks by Representative Morrison

Of Louisiana

Mr. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked to learn of the death of my esteemed and respected colleague from Louisiana, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS, who for more than 20 years has been my dear personal friend and who has represented the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana with distinction.

Everyone who knew Representative BROOKS was impressed with his great ability, sincerity, and dedication to the best interests of the people of the United States. As a Member of Congress he has been the ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services, a member of the Committee on Government Operations, and, since 1959, he has been chairman of the influential Committee on Science and Astronautics. In each of these important capacities as a Member of Congress he has exerted tremendous influence upon the affairs of our Nation and I can say without fear of contradiction that had it not been for his outstanding service in Congress we would be less able to meet the challenges of the future than we are today.

The Honorable OVERTON BROOKS was a native Louisianian. He graduated from Louisiana State University with honors having completed his law school curriculum in 1923. Until his election to Congress in 1936 he was a highly successful attorney and he served for a time as U.S. Commissioner as well as president of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress for 5 years.

Mr. Speaker, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS lived a life of dedicated service to his fellow man. He was possessed of courage and integrity and indeed he was the kind of Representative in Congress who is desperately needed at this important and critical time in our history. It will be difficult to fill his place.

Not only was Representative BROOKS a patriotic and distinguished American but he was personable and kind—a devoted husband and father—and in every act of his official and private life he was revealed as a deeply religious man.

He is survived by his lovely wife, Mollie; his fine daughter; his wonderful mother; and his devoted brother, Lawrence, who is an outstanding attorney in Baton Rouge, La. I join with his many friends in Louisiana and with my colleagues from Louisiana and from the other 49 States in expressing deep bereavement on this occasion. Yet we know that OVERTON BROOKS, in joining his Maker, will have a special place in the great beyond as he always will have in our hearts.

I am grateful for the opportunity that was given me to serve in the House of Representatives with my distinguished colleague, OVERTON BROOKS, and I extend to his family and loved ones my deepest sympathy on this sad occasion.

Remarks by Representative Mack

Of Illinois

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, may I join my colleagues in rendering a heartfelt sympathy with the family of the late Honorable OVERTON BROOKS, a most dedicated servant of the public and this Nation.

As his neighbor in the House Office Building, I shall always remember his friendliness, and respect and admire him for his contributions to the functions of the House of Representatives.

During the past several years he has concentrated a supreme and successful effort to effect technological advancement in the field of space. His leadership as first chairman of the major Committee on Science and Astronautics was both brilliant and talented, and reflected his deep concern for the future of the United States.

Though long hours were spent on this work, this 13-times-elected Representative found time to investigate and plan the development of natural resources, and become the chairman of the Rivers and Harbors Congress.

Through all his responsibilities as have been noted here by my other colleagues, Congressman BROOKS was a fine Christian, a temperate judge, and a patriot of highest degree. He was a man of honesty, integrity, and rare imagination in his ability to project upon the present scene his desires for an even better Nation of tomorrow.

Few men, upon their passing, can lay claim to a fuller life of concern, faith, and friendship toward their fellow man as did this gentleman from Louisiana. The vacancy left by our colleague will, indeed, be felt by all who knew and worked with him.

Remarks by Representative Moeller

Of Ohio

Mr. MOELLER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in commemorating the memory of that fine gentleman and esteemed friend, OVERTON BROOKS, whose untimely passing we all regret.

Since coming to Congress, I have had the great honor to serve with OVERTON BROOKS on the House Committee on Science and Astronautics. It was here I had an opportunity to observe Mr. BROOKS as a friend, as a Member of Congress, and as a leader of men. In addition to being dedicated to the best interests of the citizens of his district—his first allegiance—he was the first chairman of the Science and Astronautics Committee and perhaps the one person most responsible for alerting the Nation and working for a truly effective national space effort.

The people of this country shall be forever indebted to him for the outstanding service he rendered to his Nation. His contribution shall live long after all of us have passed to our eternal reward. And it shall stand as a living monument to OVERTON BROOKS, the man, the friend, and the tireless patriot.

I wish to extend my profound and most heartfelt sympathy to his family on their great loss. His untimely passing will leave a void that will be felt in their home and in the House of Representatives for many years to come.

Remarks by Representative Fisher

Of Texas

Mr. FISHER. Mr. Speaker, the untimely passing of our friend and colleague, OVERTON BROOKS, came as a blow to all of us. Having served with him for many years on the House Armed Services Committee, I learned to appreciate his keen understanding of the many ramifications of our national defense problems. He always had a contribution to make in efforts to solve difficult problems that arose. His handiwork is reflected in many legislative acts that are vital to the defense and security of this country. More recently he served with distinction on the Committee on Space and Astronautics, of which he was chairman.

OVERTON BROOKS was a man of high ideals and possessed those sterling qualities of leadership and courage which marked his career. He was indeed an able man, and he served his country well.

I join with my colleagues in this expression of deep sympathy for his family in their bereavement.

Remarks by Representative Winstead

Of Mississippi

Mr. WINSTEAD. Mr. Speaker, I was shocked and saddened by the news of the untimely death of my good friend and colleague, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS of Louisiana. His passing is indeed a distinct loss to this Chamber and to our entire Nation.

Prior to his appointment as chairman of the Science and Astronautics Committee, I was privileged to serve with OVERTON BROOKS for many years on the House Armed Services Committee. I also served under his chairmanship on a subcommittee which was concerned with legislation affecting our National Guard and Reserve Forces. So great was his contribution in this area of our defense program that he was often referred to as "Mr. Reserve."

OVERTON BROOKS was a dedicated American and was untiring in his efforts in behalf of his district, State, and Nation. I join my colleagues in expressing deep and heartfelt sympathy to his wife and daughter and to other members of his family. May it bring some measure of comfort to reflect on his worthwhile life and to know that countless friends throughout the Nation share their great sorrow.

Remarks by Representative Mosher

Of Ohio

Mr. MOSHER. Mr. Speaker, as a first-term Member, it was my privilege to know OVERTON BROOKS only for some 8 months. However, I shall forever feel profoundly grateful for the privilege of having known him and of serving on the committee which he chaired.

Despite the great demands upon his time and energy, resulting from the extremely heavy responsibilities he carried as chairman of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics, OVERTON BROOKS gave friendly and generous attention and sound advice to me as a newcomer on the committee. I am sure that all members of the committee found in him that same generosity and wise attention to them as individuals. We shall sorely miss the courteous fairness with which OVERTON BROOKS conducted our committee sessions.

That sometimes abused phrase "gentleman and scholar" is not at all trite as applied to Chairman BROOKS; I believe it describes him accurately. The intense and intelligent study he gave to the rapidly evolving and enlarging volume of knowledge in the new science of space, and to the other difficult fields of knowledge which came within the purview of his committee, demonstrated his scholarliness. And his gentlemanliness was revealed in the extraordinary traits of character and personality which were combined in him. His was a singularly gentle yet buoyant spirit. I am sure he must never knowingly have hurt another man; I am sure it was his constant wish to be a helpful friend to all with whom he was associated, and he certainly succeeded in that. He was both a courtly gentleman of the old school and a new age leader of great foresight.

It was constantly evident that Chairman BROOKS had a profound sense of the urgent necessity for our Nation's success in its space program. Personally, I have a feeling that his untimely death may be the direct result of overwork.

This mission which he felt so strongly drove him to excessive hours and to the expenditure of excessive energy. His was a great personal sacrifice.

I suggest it is to his undying credit that, although he was completely aware of the military significance of accomplishment in the space sciences, he looked well beyond those uses and beyond any mere sense of rivalry with the Russians, to the far broader, more constructive peacetime uses which he foresaw in the understanding of space. He was a great patriot, but, at the same time, distinctly a man of peace.

OVERTON BROOKS' name most certainly will go down in the records as one of the important pioneers in the vast new era of space. It is most unfortunate that he is lost to us just as we stand on the threshold of that era.

Mrs. Mosher joins with me in extending our profound sympathy to the wife and daughter, and to other members of OVERTON BROOKS' immediate family.

Remarks by Representative Vinson

Of Georgia

Mr. VINSON. Mr. Speaker, we were saddened last Saturday, September 16, to learn of the death of our very distinguished colleague, the late OVERTON BROOKS.

OVERTON BROOKS most assuredly died in the service of the Nation he so dearly loved.

He was indefatigable and even up to the last moments of his life, concerned himself with the problems of our space program and all of its connotations for the future security of the Nation.

For many years, he served as a member of the Military Affairs Committee. In 1947 he became a member of the Armed Services Committee. As we worked together, I soon learned that he was dedicated not only to his work as a Member of Congress, but to the security of the Nation and especially to the Reserve Forces that constitute such a vital segment of our national defense.

He eventually earned the unchallenged title of "Mr. Reserve."

I think it is fair to say that OVERTON BROOKS contributed more than any other man in the Nation to the building up of a strong Reserve structure as a part of our Armed Forces.

When he assumed the grave and heavy responsibilities of chairman of the Science and Astronautics Committee, he continued to exercise that same degree of devotion to duty, dedication to national problems, and willingness to work long and arduous hours, in the interests of our Nation.

OVERTON BROOKS was a veteran of World War I. I think it can be truly said that he was also a veteran of the cold war, and, most assuredly, a casualty of the cold war.

I extend to his bereaved family my heartfelt sympathy.

Remarks by Representative Rivers

Of South Carolina

Mr. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I desire to pay my tribute to OVERTON BROOKS, with whom I have served in the House of Representatives for 21 years. He was a gentleman of the old school, a dedicated and patriotic American whom we shall keenly miss. He was a devoted legislator, an able, conscientious citizen; he was a loving father and a good husband. His district and the State of Louisiana mourn his passing which is a matter of sadness to all of us. His unquestioned integrity and his devotion to his country were clearly evident to all of us who were privileged to know him and to work with him. I am one of those who had the honor to serve with him on the Committee on Armed Services for many years and to come to know him well. Though his untimely passing deprives us of his presence here, it is consoling to know this man leaves the greatest heritage that a man can leave, that of a good name, that of having served his party, his Nation, and his family with honor and integrity. To his family I extend my deepest sympathy and condolences. His service to his district and the Nation leaves a monument of which all of his family and his friends can be proud.

Remarks by Representative Alford

Of Arkansas

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, this is a sad moment for all of us who loved and admired our fallen colleague, OVERTON BROOKS.

I am especially saddened because, in the space of a few short years, there had developed a closeness between us. He constantly gave me the benefit of his helping hand as he went about his task in his ever so gracious manner.

OVERTON BROOKS was a modest man. Yet, I know some of the great burden he shouldered. I know how he devoted himself to the task of serving my sister State of Louisiana, and even the entire Southland.

We shall look long before we find another man with his devotion to duty; another man who contributed more of himself to his assigned role in life.

While we shall no longer have this tower of strength to lean upon in our times of trial, we shall always cherish his memory in our hearts.

We have lost a great and a good friend and our prayerful sympathy goes out to his family in this hour of darkness.

Remarks by Representative Teague

Of Texas

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Speaker, I join with the Louisiana delegation and other Members of this body in mourning the loss of one of our colleagues, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS. I had the privilege of serving with Mr. BROOKS on his Committee on Science and Astronautics and had firsthand knowledge of his keen interest in this subject.

Mr. BROOKS always maintained an interest in the Armed Forces of this country since his service during World War I. When he came to the Congress in 1937 he brought this interest with him and put it to work through his service on the Armed Services Committee. In addition he figured largely in the development of water resources in this country.

The State of Louisiana, the Congress, and the Nation mourn the passing of this public servant, and his leadership will be greatly missed.

Remarks by Representative Kearns

Of Pennsylvania

Mr. KEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the untimely passing of our good friend and distinguished colleague, OVERTON BROOKS, of Louisiana, was a great shock to all of us.

He was a man of high ideals and worked untiringly in the cause of good government. He had a profound knowledge of our Nation's problems and gave of his time and effort unstintingly. His counsel and guidance will be greatly missed for he was a dedicated American, devoted to his country and to his congressional district.

Back in 1952, in the 82d Congress, Minority Leader Joe Martin appointed me to serve at large on a special Armed Services subcommittee going to Korea during the crucial days of the Korean war. The bond of friendship I formed with the chairman, OVERTON BROOKS, on that trip will be a wonderful memory as long as I live.

As first chairman of the newly created House Science and Astronautics Committee, OVERTON BROOKS was a pioneer in developing our space program and his vision and foresight were responsible in a large part for the rapid strides we made after an admittedly slow start. His accomplishments in the short years that he served as chairman will live in our Nation's history.

In the 16 years that I served with the gentleman from Louisiana, I was always inspired by his courage, ability, and dedication to his country.

I share with his countless friends their sorrow over his sudden passing and I extend to his wife and family my deepest sympathy. His colleagues in the House will never forget him.

Remarks by Representative Arends

Of Illinois

Mr. ARENDS. Mr. Speaker, another of our colleagues has been called to eternal rest. The untimely passing of OVERTON BROOKS is a shock to all of us. I served with him on the Committee on Armed Services and for a time his office was on the same corridor as mine in the New House Office Building. I passed it daily. And I sometimes wondered if his office was ever closed. Even on Sundays he would invariably be at his office.

He was a tireless worker who loved his work. I do not believe anyone could be more conscientious. If anything, he was too conscientious. He asked more of himself than could possibly be expected of any man. It is typical of him that he did not allow himself sufficient time to fully recover from an operation, with the result that he had to be readmitted to the hospital and a few days later passed on to eternity.

OVERTON gave his life in his conscientious effort to serve his people of Louisiana and his country. As chairman of the important Committee on Science and Astronautics, he carried more than an ordinary burden. He had the innumerable and truly perplexing problems that one faces in organizing a new committee and of a committee which would have jurisdiction over a subject only in the embryonic stages. OVERTON BROOKS served as a pioneer and his dedication to his work resulted in the many things that have been accomplished by this new standing committee of the House.

No job was too big for OVERTON. Nor could he be assigned too many jobs. The bigger the job, the more duties and responsibilities he had, the better he liked it. He sought always to serve. And he served well. He served well on the Committee on Armed Services, but he saw an opportunity for larger service when he took over the chairmanship of the Committee on Science and Astronautics.

OVERTON BROOKS

With the passing of Overton Brooks we have lost an invaluable colleague, and I have lost a personal friend. I extend my sincerest sympathy to his wife and family. I share their loss.

Proceedings
in the
United States Senate

Proceedings in the Senate

SATURDAY, *September 16, 1961.*

A message from the House of Representatives, by Mr. Maurer, one of its reading clerks, communicated to the Senate the intelligence of the death of Hon. OVERTON BROOKS, late a Representative from the State of Louisiana, and transmitted the resolutions of the House thereon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate a resolution from the House of Representatives, which the clerk will read.

The Chief Clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the House has heard with profound sorrow of the death of the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS, a Representative from the State of Louisiana.

Resolved, That a committee of eleven Members of the House, with such Members of the Senate as may be joined, be appointed to attend the funeral.

Resolved, That the Sergeant at Arms of the House be authorized and directed to take such steps as may be necessary for carrying out the provisions of these resolutions and that the necessary expenses in connection therewith be paid out of the contingent fund of the House.

Resolved, That the Clerk communicate these resolutions to the Senate and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That as a further mark of respect the House do now adjourn.

Mr. ELLENDER. Mr. President, I submit a resolution and ask that it be read.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution submitted by the Senator from Louisiana.

The Chief Clerk read the resolution (S. Res. 213), as follows:

Resolved, That the Senate has heard with profound sorrow the announcement of the death of Hon. OVERTON BROOKS, late a Representative from the State of Louisiana.

Resolved, That a committee of two Senators be appointed by the Presiding Officer to join the committee appointed on the part of the House of Representatives to attend the funeral of the deceased Representative.

Resolved, That the Secretary communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit a copy thereof to the family of the deceased.

Resolved, That, as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, the Senate, at the conclusion of its business today, stand in recess until 12 o'clock on Monday next.

The resolution was considered by unanimous consent, and unanimously agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair appoints the senior Senator from Louisiana [Mr. Ellender] and the junior Senator from Louisiana [Mr. Long] the committee on the part of the Senate to attend the funeral of the late Representative BROOKS.

Mr. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, under the order previously entered, as a further mark of respect and honor to the memory of the deceased Representative OVERTON BROOKS, I move that the Senate now stand in recess until 12 o'clock noon on Monday next.

The motion was unanimously agreed to; and (at 7 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.) the Senate took a recess until Monday, September 18, 1961, at 12 o'clock meridian.

Remarks by Senator Ellender

Of Louisiana

Mr. ELLENDER. Mr. President, it is with regret that I learned a few hours ago of the death of my colleague, the Honorable OVERTON BROOKS, of the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana.

Louisiana and the Nation have lost a devoted and valued servant in the death of Representative BROOKS.

This dedicated man was born into a family of public servants. His uncle and namesake was the late Senator John H. Overton, who was the senior Senator from Louisiana when I was first elected to this body. Another uncle, Winston Overton, served with distinction on the Louisiana Supreme Court.

OVERTON BROOKS was born near Baton Rouge, La., and during the First World War served overseas as an enlisted man in the field artillery. Following the end of hostilities, he returned to this country and was graduated from the Louisiana State University Law School in 1923. He practiced law for a few years.

He entered his long career as a public servant by being elected as U.S. commissioner in 1925 and served in that position until he was elected to the 75th Congress in 1936.

It was from this point forward that I grew to know OVERTON BROOKS, for we were both elected to the Congress during the campaign of 1936.

Since that time I have watched him serve his district, his State, and his Nation with honor and dignity. He was a diligent worker, ever ready to do what he could for his people. He served with distinction as a ranking member of the House Armed Services Committee for many years.

A few years ago he brought great honor to our State by being named chairman of one of the major committees of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences. He was also active in his other

committee assignments—Government Operations and the Joint Committee on Smithsonian Institution Museum of History and Technology Building.

I personally mourn his passing. I know he will be greatly missed by us all. We have lost an able leader and a fine man.

I extend sincere regrets to his devoted wife and charming young daughter, who survive him.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed an editorial entitled "OVERTON BROOKS," published in the Shreveport (La.) Times of September 18, 1961, being a tribute to the late Representative OVERTON BROOKS, of Louisiana.

There being no objection, the editorial was ordered to be printed as follows:

OVERTON BROOKS

Few men on the American political scene—past or present—have bucked the political winds of partisan politics with the success of OVERTON BROOKS. For 25 years he sat in the House of Representatives through 13 successive victorious elections. Efforts were made—though rarely—to unseat him both in his own Democratic Party's primaries and through Republican opposition in general elections. Always he swept to victory, usually with ease. He became known as unbeatable.

That, together with congressional seniority thus gained, plus indefatigable will to work for constituents even in the most insignificant matters, carried Mr. BROOKS to high prestige in Congress—to House committee prominence rarely if ever equaled by any Representative from this State. For many years he was ranking Democratic member of the House Armed Services Committee. When the space age came and a new committee was necessary, Mr. BROOKS was unanimous choice of his party in the House for chairman. He held that post at his death. Recently, a private industrial organization honored him as "Space Congressman of the Year." He was a Regent of the Smithsonian Institution, a member of the Joint Congressional Committee on the Smithsonian Institution Museum of History and Technology Building, and of the Government Operations Committee.

Of course, Mr. BROOKS benefited from the one-party system of the South so far as general elections were concerned. But through a quarter of a century he was able to guide his political course in a manner that carried him from the original status in 1936 of "a Long candidate" to a point where at times he aroused both ire and support of both conservatives and "liberals" in and

out of his party and yet could be defeated by neither. He was a capable political craftsman who never let himself be lulled into belief of political security by a big election victory. The end of one campaign, to him, simply was the signal to prepare for the next one.

Often those who had opposed Mr. Brooks vigorously in one campaign would support him in the next—or past supporters would turn to opposition. For example, his toughest fight for reelection was in 1942 when solid Shreveport union labor support, organized to a perfection rarely found in any one economic group in any election, kept him in office. Later votes on certain issues in Congress aroused antipathy among organized labor and support among business conservatives.

The strongest outbreak against Mr. Brooks came during the present session of the House when he voted with the Democratic Party to pack the House Rules Committee—a plan conceived by Kennedy and other liberal forces who hoped to speed action on Kennedy "liberal" legislation. Mr. Brooks had been reelected last fall by a substantial majority over general election Republican opposition in a district where the GOP Nixon ticket gained a majority over two opposing tickets in Shreveport and Caddo and a large plurality in the congressional district as a whole. He had not endorsed the Kennedy-Johnson ticket until the afternoon before election. The result of this series of incidents was, for the first time in Mr. Brooks' political career, creation of an organized effort—immediately after he had won an election—to oppose him in the next election.

What the result might have been had Mr. Brooks lived is something no one can say. But his answer was to gird for battle at once and he had been carrying on his fight for 1962 from a hospital bed when death ended a career which had wrapped him in the mantles of unending victory for a quarter of a century.

Opposition to Mr. Brooks in campaigns and in connection with votes in Congress on highly controversial issues was purely political and partisan, never personal. Those who opposed him most strongly at times on the political front often were among his close friends in nonpolitical life. On his last trip to Shreveport—shortly before he had to undergo abdominal surgery in Washington—he visited and chatted cordially with some who had been most outspoken in criticism of his House Rules Committee vote.

The political philosophy of Mr. Brooks was built chiefly on one keystone: his party—the Democratic Party. He was, heart and soul, a Democrat in general political philosophy and, nearly always, in his votes. But he did not hesitate to go against National Democratic Party principles on issues such as segregation. Often

he explained actions in Congress which brought some criticism with the statement that "I am a Democrat, I was elected as a Democrat on a Democratic Party ticket, and in the general operation and functioning of my party I stand behind it always."

There are literally thousands of persons in the Fourth District who can recall personal kindnesses, favors, or action in official capacity by Mr. BROOKS in their behalf. No request was too insignificant in nature or too unimportant politically or otherwise to gain his help in personal or community problems unless departure from his established political beliefs was involved. Rarely did a person asking a favor—or a service—fail to get a personal reply to the request and personal action by Mr. BROOKS or his staff.

Through his party seniority and prestige, and through his endless personal efforts, Mr. BROOKS did much for his district, particularly in gaining and retaining military installations and in such fields as flood control and other waterway development. He was a devout churchman, a member of many professional and other organizations. He gained many honors and tributes through his work as a Congressman. The respect with which he was held in Washington as well as in Louisiana was demonstrated in the statements of regret expressed by high Federal, State, parish, and city officials, including President Kennedy, and by civic leaders locally.

The Times joins the people of Louisiana's Fourth Congressional District—as well as many others elsewhere who knew and respected Mr. BROOKS—in extending sympathy and condolences to the surviving members of his family; especially to Mrs. Brooks and to their daughter, Laura Anne.

Remarks by Senator Long

Of Louisiana

Mr. LONG. Mr. President, it was with deep regret that I learned today of the passing of Representative OVERTON BROOKS, of the Fourth Congressional District of Louisiana. Representative BROOKS was a tireless, devoted servant of his country. He served as Representative of the Fourth Congressional District for a period of 25 years. He was the dean of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation. For a number of years he served on the Committee on Armed Services. He served on the Military Affairs Committee, which preceded the formation of the Committee on Armed Services.

He was the author of a great number of bills subsequently enacted into law setting forth the conditions and the nature of the Armed Services and the Reserves.

It was only a few days ago that I had the privilege of congratulating him because the Louisiana Ordnance Plant in the fourth district of Louisiana was about to reopen. It was a project on which he had worked diligently for a considerable period of time. This was but one of many thousands of services he performed for the good of the people of the area which he had the honor and privilege to represent.

I know of no other Member of Congress who worked longer or harder in performing every possible service for any constituent in his district, whenever called upon.

As chairman of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics from 1959 to date, he rendered very valuable service. He also served effectively for 5 years in the position of president of the National Rivers and Harbors Congress.

Congressman BROOKS was married to Miss Mollie Meriwether, his devoted and lovely wife. They were blessed with one child, who is now a very beautiful young lady, Miss Laura Anne Brooks. I want to express my profound sympathy to these, his loved ones. As a devoted and faithful husband and father, his loss is mourned by them. As an effective and dedicated servant of this Nation, he will be missed by all of us.

Remarks by Senator Hill

Of Alabama

Mr. HILL. Mr. President, I wish to express my regret over the sad news of the death of the late Representative OVERTON BROOKS. I was privileged to serve with OVERTON BROOKS on the old Military Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives. I know how faithful and devoted he was. I know how indefatigable he was in his work, not only for the people of his district, but also how industrious he was in his labors for our country and its defense. He was indeed an outstanding Member of the House of Representatives, honored and respected by his colleagues. He enjoyed a position of outstanding leadership in the House of Representatives. I join my distinguished friends, the Senators from Louisiana, in paying my tribute to OVERTON BROOKS.

Remarks by Senator Sparkman

Of Alabama

Mr. SPARKMAN. Mr. President, I was greatly grieved to learn of the death of OVERTON BROOKS. OVERTON and I entered Congress together. When my distinguished colleague came to the Senate about a year later, I was elected to membership on the Military Affairs Committee, of which my colleague had been chairman.

For 9 years I sat on that committee next to OVERTON BROOKS. He and I served on a subcommittee together, and we visited many military installations together. OVERTON BROOKS, his wife, and at this time, his very small daughter, Anne, lived in the same apartment house where my wife and daughter and I lived.

He was a wonderful person. He was a hard-working Congressman, and an able Representative of his district. He was a fine father and husband. My wife and I certainly join all his friends and colleagues in expressing our sympathy to Mrs. Brooks and their lovely daughter, Anne.

Remarks by Senator Keating

Of New York

Mr. KEATING. Mr. President, I wish to join in the tributes to OVERTON BROOKS. It was my privilege to serve, along with the distinguished Senator from Montana [Mr. Metcalf], whom I observe in the Chamber, on the first Special Subcommittee on Astronautics and Space Exploration, of which the chairman may have been the majority leader of the House, Representative McCormack, or Representative BROOKS. Because the duties of Representative McCormack as majority leader were so heavy, he was required to turn over most of the duties of the chairmanship of the special committee to Representative BROOKS.

OVERTON BROOKS was always extremely courteous in all of his dealings with members of that committee. He was diligent in his work. I never knew a man to throw himself into his work with any greater enthusiasm, sincerity, or feeling. He was particularly assiduous to make certain that the rights of the minority were always respected. He was well liked by the Members of the House. He leaves some precious memories.

I join in extending sympathy to his wife and daughter.

Remarks by Senator Metcalf

Of Montana

Mr. METCALF. Mr. President, as the distinguished Senator from New York has said, we served together, under Representative BROOKS, on the first Space Committee. Senators will recall that right after the Russians orbited the first sputnik, we became concerned about the activities of the United States in space. In the House, a select committee was headed by the majority leader, Representative McCormack; but, as has been stated by the Senator from New York, the duties of Representative McCormack as majority leader or floor leader were such that many times he had to relinquish his chairmanship to Representative BROOKS.

That committee, under OVERTON BROOKS, as acting chairman, reported the first space bill which put the United States back into the space race. Then, when the permanent committee was created, he took charge, and in his usual, efficient manner brought about our leadership again in the space race.

He was always courteous and considerate; always able to work out a legislative problem; always willing to work with the minority or majority. He was a great legislator, a man of sound thinking, always courteous to the junior members.

America has lost a great man, a man who has made a contribution to America, to Congress, and to the 20th century.

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